

DAILY REPORT

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SHIEH TUNG-MIN ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT 22 MARCH

OW221025Y Taipei CNA in English 0952 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Taipei, 22 Mar (CNA)--The National Assembly, acting as the electoral college, Wednesday [22 March] elected by an overwhelming vote Taiwan Governor Shieh Tung-min as vice president of the Republic of China. The Taiwan-born Shieh, together with President-Elect Chiang Ching-kuo, will take office during inaugural ceremonies on 20 May.

Shieh, 71, garnered 941 votes from 1,189 assembly delegates present and voting at the morning session. According to the law stipulating vice presidential elections, a candidate needs to receive supporting votes from over half of the total assembly membership to become successful. In Shieh's case, the number of winning votes is 625.

Hsueh Yueh, who officiated at the voting, announced Shieh's election around 1 pm to the applause of the attending delegates.

Shieh, like President-elect Chiang, ran unopposed. He will become the fourth vice president of the Republic of China. His predecessors are Li Tsung-jen, Chen Cheng, and Yen Chia-kan, the incumbent president, in that order. The vice president has been vacant since former President Chiang Kai-shek died on 5 April 1975, while serving his fifth term, and then Vice President Yen immediately became president for the remaining term expiring in May.

BRIEFS

COMMERCIAL PACT WITH URUGUAY--Taipei, 16 Mar--The Executive Yuan (cabinet) at its regular meeting on 16 March ratified the revision of Article 6 of the Sino-Uruguayan commercial agreement. Under the revised article, merchandise of Republic of China origin will enjoy a preferential tariff treatment in that South American country. The Republic of China and Uruguay signed the Sino-Uruguayan commercial pact on 10 September 1970. It went into force 7 February 1975. A ceremony for the exchange of notes of the revised article was held in Montivideo on 3 February this year. Chinese Ambassador Chen Hsing-fei and the Uruguayan foreign minister attended the ceremony. The revised article went into force immediately. [Text] [Taipei CNA in English 1443 GMT 16 Mar 78 OW]

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS--Taipei, 11 Mar--Taiwan imported a total of 3,492,958 metric tons of feed grains and soybeans last year, up by 1,430,000 [number as received] metric tons over 1970 and down by 89,062 metric tons from 1976, according to government sources. The government statistics show the total imports last year included 1,995,834 metric tons of corn, 577,316 metric tons of wheat, 264,662 tons of barley, and 655,146 tons of soybeans. Taiwan imported a total of 2,060,981 tons of feed grains and soybeans in 1970 and the figure rose to 3,582,020 tons in 1976. [Text] [Taipei CNA in English 1018 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW]

SAUDI LOAN--Taipei, 17 Mar--The Republic of China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 17 March signed a U.S. \$30 million loan agreement to finance free China's telecommunications development projects. Chinese Finance Minister Walter H. Fei and Dr Mahsoun B. Jalal, vice chairman and managing director of the Saudi Fund for Development, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. The 15-year loan carries an annual interest rate of 5 percent, but repayments can be made in 20 years. It will be used by the Directorate-General of Telecommunications to purchase telephone switchboards and long-distance communications equipment. [Excerpt] [Taipei CNA in English 1337 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW]

FUKUDA, KOMOTO DETERMINED TO SLASH TRADE SURPLUS

OW221203Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--Toshio Komoto, minister of international trade and industry, said Wednesday that his ministry [MITI] would step up its administrative guidance to check an excessive increase in Japanese exports.

Emerging from a 40-minute meeting with Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, Komoto told newsmen that the MITI's aim would be to keep the value of exports in fiscal 1978 unchanged from current fiscal 1977 in terms of yen.

Komoto also said he and Fukuda agreed that the government should do all it could to attain its goal of cutting Japan's current-account surplus to 6 billion dollars in fiscal 1978, as compared to an estimated 13 billion dollars this fiscal year ending in March.

Komoto said that the government would expand its emergency shopping list to help slash Japan's trade surplus. However, he said, the MITI would not go so far as to invoke the trade control ordinance with a view to curbing exports. Komoto did not say what measures he had in mind in intensifying the MITI's administrative guidance. Details will be discussed with other government agencies and exporters, he said.

FUKUDA: NAKAGAWA WILL NOT ATTEND MOSCOW FISHERY TALKS

OW220434Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda met with Agriculture-Forestry Minister Ichiro Nakagawa Wednesday to discuss Japanese strategy toward the stalled fishery negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Fukuda later told newsmen Nakagawa would not go to Moscow later this month to seek a breakthrough in the negotiations. There had been speculation that Nakagawa would make the visit before the salmon fishing season opens in April in the high seas in the north-west Pacific.

Nakagawa told Fukuda during the meeting that the Moscow talks were encountering difficulties because of Soviet demand for a total ban on salmon fishing in the waters.

SENKAKU ISLANDS CLAIMED 'INHERENT JAPANESE TERRITORY'

OW220557Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--The government confirmed Wednesday that the disputed Senkaku Islands northeast of Taiwan is an inherent Japanese territory.

The stand was made known in an official reply to be given to Liberal-Democratic Dietman Kazuo Tamaki, who asked the government last week about its position toward the islands whose ownership is disputed by China and Taiwan.

In the reply the government says Japan holds the islands in the East China Sea and sees no need to discuss its ownership with any other country. The government dismissed China's claim to the islands as unfounded, adding that any reference to a territorial problem in the negotiations on a peace and friendship treaty with China would be useless.

MIYAZAWA: JAPAN, U.S. SEEK TO STABILIZE EXCHANGE RATES

OW220603Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0542 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--Japanese and U.S. monetary authorities are exploring ways of preventing erratic fluctuations in foreign-exchange rates in a move that could lead to controlled floating of major currencies, it was disclosed Wednesday.

Kiichi Miyazawa, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, told newsmen after reporting to Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda on the bilateral consultations that Japan has advised the United States to consider a "Miyazawa plan" on stabilizing exchange rate fluctuations. Under the plan, "target zones" within which major currencies will be allowed to move against one another will be set each time foreign-exchange markets run wild.

"The present uncertain situation must be improved before the Japan-U.S. summit scheduled for early May," Miyazawa said. He added that the groundwork must be laid for reforming the current freely floating system by the end of April when the International Monetary Fund's interim committee meets. Miyazawa also indicated the U.S. policy of "benign neglect" of the dollar's sustained decline against other foreign currencies has reached its limit. "The idea that the United States gains (in world trade) by leaving the dollar on the decline is changing," he said. "The time has come when we must mutually consider an orderly floating system."

FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT LIKELY TO VISIT IN OCTOBER

OW201109Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 20 Mar (KYODO)--West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will visit Japan probably in October at the invitation of the government, Chief Cabinet Secretary Shintaro Abe announced Monday. Schmidt is the first German chancellor to visit Japan in 9 years since former Chancellor Kurt-George Kiesinger came here in 1969.

JAPAN-EEC MINISTERIAL TRADE TALKS CONTINUE

OW220431Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--Japan and the European Common Market continued ministerial-level negotiations for balancing their bilateral trade here Wednesday amid growing indications that they will not be able to conclude the crucial talks Thursday as originally scheduled.

Wilhelm Haferkamp, visiting vice-president of the European Communities Commission, met first with Toshio Komoto, minister of international trade and industry, and later paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda Wednesday morning to continue the talks, which began Monday. He was scheduled to meet separately with Transport Minister Kenji Fukunaga and External Economic Affairs Minister Nobuhiko Ushiba later the same day.

At the meeting with Komoto, Haferkamp asked him to clarify how soon he considers Japan will be able to expand its domestic demand and imports. But Komoto replied that the matter is currently under study by the government and did not indicate any target date for increasing domestic demand and imports. Haferkamp also demanded that Japan agree to the European Common Market's plan to allow nations to resort to emergency import controls on a selective basis within the framework of the Tokyo round of multinational negotiations for freer international trade.

Komoto, however, turned down the demand, stating that Japan is opposed to any such measures.

Government sources said Japan and the Common Market will not likely be able to conclude the talks Thursday as there is still a wide gap of views on a joint communique to be issued at the end of the negotiations.

Haferkamp Sees Basic Agreement

OW220629Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0611 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar-(KYODO)--Japan and the European Common Market agreed Wednesday to issue a joint statement at the end of their trade negotiations now under way in Tokyo, a government spokesman said.

Reports from Brussels had said the ambassadors of the nine EEC countries, meeting there Tuesday, agreed that no joint statement should be issued unless there was prospect of satisfactory results at the talks.

Wednesday's agreement came when EEC Commission Vice President Wilhelm Haferkamp met with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda for half an hour. Haferkamp, who is heading the EEC negotiators at the crucial talks, stressed to Fukuda both sides should announce the outcome of their mutual cooperation to the rest of the world in the form of a joint statement. Haferkamp said the EEC and Japan were basically in agreement.

Fukuda told the EEC official that any problems between countries should be solved through talks and mutual cooperation to avoid a rise of protectionism.

The government spokesman said Haferkamp invited Fukuda to visit Brussels to reciprocate the visit to Japan last year of EEC President Roy Jenkins. Fukuda replied he would make the trip before the end of this year, if possible, the spokesman added.

Later Haferkamp met with Transport Minister Kenji Fukunaga and urged the Japanese Government to take measures that would prompt Japanese airlines to buy European-built aircraft. Fukunaga replied he had advised three domestic airlines to submit their aircraft purchase plans, which would become available very soon.

Transport Ministry officials said the three airlines were now working on the purchase plans, but added they were unlikely to be submitted in time for the announcement of the Japan-EEC joint communique, now scheduled for Thursday.

AUSTRALIA SEEKS STABLE ORE, COAL IMPORT PROMISE

OW220623Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0552 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--Visiting Australian Deputy Prime Minister J. Douglas Anthony Wednesday asked Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda for Japan's stable import of iron ore and coal from Australia.

Anthony, concurrently minister for overseas trade and resources, made the request at a meeting with Fukuda at the prime minister's official residence. They discussed bilateral economic problems for about 30 minutes. Fukuda told Anthony that Japan would be able to import Australian iron ore and coal on a stable basis as requested if business activities picked up.

Also present at the meeting were Australian Ambassador John Menadue, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Shintaro Abe and Yasushi Miyazawa, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau.

ARGENTINE ECONOMIC MINISTER TO VISIT JAPAN

OW200809Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (KYODO)--Dr. Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, Argentine minister of economy, will visit Japan late this month or early in April to sign an agreement on the flotation of a yen 15 billion (dollars 65.2 million) yen-denominated bond issue on the Tokyo capital market. Martinez will go to Tokyo after attending a meeting of directors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Vancouver, Canada.

MILITARY, POLITICAL, BUSINESS GROUPS TO VISIT PRC

SDF Officers

OW180635Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0612 GMT 18 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 18 Mar (KYODO)--Two Self-Defense Forces [SDF] officers will be sent to China and the Soviet Union on liaison business, the Defense Agency disclosed Saturday. It will be the first time that SDF officers on the active list, other than defense attaches, will visit these two countries.

According to the agency, Col Atsushi Shima and Col Shigekoto Sakayanagi, both members of the intelligence division of the ground staff office, are scheduled to visit Peking and Moscow respectively, for liaison with the defense attaches of the Japanese Embassies there. The agency says that the two officers will leave Japan on 22 March, and return home on the 29th.

JSP Delegation

OW210833Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 21 Mar (KYODO)--Ichio Asukata, chairman of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, will leave here for Peking Wednesday afternoon, leading a party delegation. This is Asukata's first overseas tour since he took over the JSP chairmanship in December.

While in China until next Monday, Asukata hopes to meet Chinese party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and other Chinese leaders to discuss international problems in general as well as the deadlocked negotiations on a Japan-China peace and friendship treaty. Observers are watching with interest what role the Chinese may want the JSP mission to play toward early resumption of the treaty negotiations.

Kawasaki Industries Delegation

OW170451Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 17 Mar (KYODO)--China has formally replied that it would welcome a major trade mission from Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., and its six affiliates in May, industry sources disclosed Friday. The sources said the reply came from the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade through the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade. The Kawasaki group had asked for the visit through the association in January.

The mission, to be led by Kawasaki Chairman Kiyoshi Yotsumoto, will visit China 15-23 May in view of the possibility of fast growth in Sino-Japanese economic interchange following conclusion of a long-term trade arrangement. The members will be presidents or vice presidents from the seven firms, including Fujitsu, Ltd., Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Fuji Electric, Kawasho Corp., Kawasaki Steel and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH IRAQ

OW210827Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 21 Mar (KYODO)--Japan and Iraq signed a cultural agreement Monday to promote cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries, the government announced.

According to the announcement, the agreement was signed in Baghdad by Japanese Ambassador Kuniyoshi Date and 'Ali Husayin al-Khalaf, counsellor of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq. Under the agreement, a mixed commission will be established to discuss details of cultural exchange programs, it said. The agreement will enter into force when the instruments of ratification are exchanged in Tokyo, it said.

IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA CARRIERS ONLY NEW USERS AT AIRPORT

OW170419Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO) --Transport Minister Kenji Fukunaga said Friday the government will not allow any new airlines except those of Iraq and Saudi Arabia to fly into the new Tokyo International Airport at present. Fukunaga made the remark after the cabinet decided to sign a civil air agreement with Iraq, permitting Iraqi Airways to land at the airport in Narita next month. The decision called for signing the agreement in Baghdad Monday. Under the pact, Japan Air Lines will begin twice weekly flights to the Iraqi capital in November. Fukunaga said the government plans to conclude a similar agreement with Saudi Arabia in May.

RED ARMY BACKS AIRPORT STRUGGLE; 'SUPPORT ACTION' FEARED

OW220751Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 22 Mar (KYODO)--The Japanese Red Army operating abroad has come out with a statement strongly supporting the struggle being conducted by residents in Sanrizuka, Chiba Prefecture, against the new Tokyo International Airport at Narita. The statement was published in a recent issue of a new left newspaper.

In the statement, the Japanese Red Army said it was fighting in unity with comrades engaged in struggle at Sanrizuka. It then called for dealing severe blow to the enemy by resorting to all sorts of tactics and for crushing the very foundation of the "imperialists."

This was the third time since 25 May last year that the Japanese Red Army had indicated its support of the Narita anti-airport struggle.

Concerning the latest statement, law enforcement authorities believe that the Red Army may be preparing to resort to a new support action in concert with the anti-airport struggle which is now about to reach a climactic stage with the approach of the 30 March opening of the airport.

The statement did not reveal in detail what sort of support action will be conducted.

ENVOYS TO AFRICA TO MEET IN TOKYO 22-24 MARCH

OW201111Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 20 Mar (KYODO)--Japanese ambassadors and consuls-general stationed in 15 African countries will meet here from Wednesday to Friday to discuss political developments in the region and ways to promote economic cooperation with these countries, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Officials said that the Ethiopia-Somali border dispute and the independence movements of Southwest Africa (Namibia) will be the central political subjects at the meeting at the Foreign Ministry. There are rising needs in the region for Japanese economic cooperation, including capital investments in some of the countries. Ways to meet this necessity, coupled with the promotion of trade, will be other major topics of the discussion, they said.

Among the countries the diplomats attending the meeting are stationed in are Ethiopia, Ghana, Gabon, Kenya, Zaire, Zambia, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Tanzania. Ambassador to the United Nations Isao Abe and other ranking officials at the Foreign Ministry will also attend the meeting.

DEFENSE ATTACHES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO MEET IN BANGKOK

OW201233Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 20 Mar (KYODO)--The Defense Agency announced Monday that it would hold a conference of defense attaches of Japanese Embassies in the Southeast Asian area in Bangkok on 7 April.

The Defense Agency's Deputy Director General Kou Maruyama, who will be the chairman at the meeting, is scheduled to leave Tokyo for Bangkok 5 April. After the meeting, he will make an inspection tour of Iran and Turkey before returning home 15 April. To attend the conference are attaches from embassies in such countries as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Australia.

BRIEFS

ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIALS--Tokyo, 13 Mar--Toshiwo Doko, president of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, was elected chairman Monday of an 18-member commission on international problems concerning atomic energy. All 18 members were present at the first session of the commission, which was set up by the Atomic Energy Commission as an advisory organ to the government. Among them were Yoshishige Ashiwara, honorary president of the Kansai Economic Federation; Goro Inoue, deputy chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; and Takashi Makaibo, president of the University of Tokyo. Commission members agreed to meet once a month. The next session is scheduled for 3 April before an international working group meets in Tokyo in May on the 2-year International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) project. The commission also agreed to set up a working-level committee consisting of 11 officials of government agencies and private organizations. [Text] [Tokyo KYOD] in English 0843 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW]

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS--Tokyo, 20 Mar--The Foreign Ministry appointed Yoshisuke Takiguchi, minister at the Japanese Embassy in Algeria, to serve as consul general in Montreal, Canada. The ministry ordered home Ambassador to Burma Takeo Arita for reassignment. Atsuhiko Yatabe, minister at the embassy in Austria, was named to serve as counselor at the ministry's United Nations Bureau. Mitsuo Iijima, chief of the second economic cooperation division of the ministry's Economic Cooperation Bureau, was appointed counselor at the embassy in Pakistan. Tadakiyo Nomura, counselor at the embassy in the Netherlands, was reassigned to the embassy in Austria as counselor. [Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW]

FEBRUARY ACCOUNT, TRADE SURPLUS--Tokyo, 16 Mar--Japan's current account and trade surpluses reached the second highest levels ever in February, the Finance Ministry announced 16 March. Preliminary figures before seasonal adjustments showed the current account surplus at 1.8 billion dollars compared with the record high of 2.18 billion dollars in December. January saw a 223 million dollar deficit due largely to seasonal factors. The trade surplus was 2.33 billion dollars compared with 375 million dollars in January and a record 2.68 billion dollars in December. After allowing for seasonal variations, both the current account and trade surpluses came to all-time highs of 1.92 billion dollars and 2.45 billion dollars, respectively. The previous records were January's 1.56 billion dollars for the current account and 2.16 billion dollars for the trade balance. Exports in February rose 26 percent over a year before to 7.26 billion dollars, while imports increased only 9 percent to 4.93 billion dollars. Much of the sharp export gain was attributed to the yen's appreciation of 18.7 percent against the U.S. dollar in the past year. The overall balance of payments swung to a 2.10 billion dollar surplus from January's 208 million dollar deficit. [Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 16 Mar 78 OW]

TOTTORI GOVERNOR REELECTED--Tottori, 20 Mar--Governor Kozo Hirabayashi of Tottori Prefecture was reelected to his second term by a wide margin in an election held 19 March. Hirabayashi, 47, a conservative independent who was supported by the Liberal-Democratic Party, garnered 205,773 votes against 94,636 for socialist Takashi Endo and 12,496 for communist Mutsumi Yasuda. The voting rate was 74.61 percent, or lower than the 80.09 percent at the time of the last gubernatorial election 4 years ago. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0033 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW]

LDP MISSION TO EGYPT--Tokyo, 20 Mar--A mission of the Liberal-Democratic Party returned here 10 March from a 6-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of the ruling Arab Socialist Party. The mission, led by Tadashi Kuranari, had held talks with Prime Minister Mamouh Muhammad Salim and delivered to him Prime Minister Takashi Fukuda's letter to President Anwar as-Sadat, inviting the president to visit Japan. Salim was quoted by an LDP spokesman as saying that the sudden turn of the Mideast situation prevented the president from scheduling his visit immediately in spite of his wishes. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW]

FORGING PRESS FOR USSR--Tokyo, 13 Mar--Komatsu Ltd has signed a 4 million dollar contract with the Soviet Union to export an automatic connecting-rod forging press line for large diesel engines. The contract with V/O Avtopromimport, Russia's auto import corporation, was obtained through Toyo Menka Kaisha Ltd. It calls for payment in dollars on delivery in January 1980. The line will be used at Avto's diesel factory in Yaroslavl, about 300 kilometers northeast of Moscow. Komatsu's exports of industrial machinery to the Soviet Union have topped 10 billion yen, including a 2 billion yen deal in March 1973 for four press lines for the world's largest auto factory at Kamaz, about 800 kilometers east of Moscow, that has an annual production capacity of 150,000 units. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0908 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW]

PARTY FUNCTIONARIES URGED TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

SK270830Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2317 GMT 26 Feb 78 SK

[NODONG SINMUN 27 February editorial: "Let All Party Functionaries Possess Economic and Technical Knowledge"]

[Text] Endlessly encouraged by the party Central Committee's letter, all the nation's working class and workers have enthusiastically responded to the charge to implement the new prospective plan, achieving new innovations and victories daily. Today the party organizations and functionaries are faced with the heavy and honorable task of efficiently guiding economic work. To meet this task they should ardently gain economic and technical knowledge to vigorously support the all-out advance movement to implement the new prospective plan.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: If party functionaries lack economic knowledge and are ignorant of technology, they cannot address economic issues nor effectively guide economic work. They should have economic and technical knowledge. Learning is always a good thing, and indeed is necessary to advance the revolution. All party functionaries should acquire economic and technical knowledge so as to be able to effectively guide economic work.

Gaining economic and technical knowledge is an important task for party functionaries in effectively guiding economic work and vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction. There is no more important revolutionary task for our party functionaries, who are working for socialist construction, than to guide economic work well. Party functionaries equipped with economic knowledge and technology, can vigorously carry out party work--with emphasis on implementing economic work--and can correctly organize and mobilize the working people in the struggle for economic construction.

Our socialist economy has reached an incomparably high level in terms of scale, technology and equipment. This complex and large-scale economy is developing in accordance with plans and is being scientifically managed according to the chuche economic management system. In this situation, party functionaries should be familiar with economic and technical matters, so that they can gain detailed knowledge of the current situation at factories, in the rural areas and deepen their work with administrative and economic functionaries, scientists and technicians.

The possession of economic and technical knowledge is an urgent matter in successfully implementing the huge and complex tasks of the Second 7-Year Plan. The new prospective plan is one of chuche-orientation aimed at further strengthening our economic self-reliance. It is a plan for a technical and scientific revolution aimed at highly modernizing our economy and placing it on a new scientific foundation.

To brilliantly realize the new prospective plan, which will place our economy on a higher level, it is most important for party organizations and functionaries to mingle with scientists, technicians and the masses of producers and efficiently work with them so as to enhance their roles and responsibilities to the maximum. This requires that all party functionaries be prepared as able functionaries having economic and technical knowledge, which is an important key to thoroughly implementing the three policies of making the national economy chuche-oriented, modernized and scientific.

Having party functionaries gain economic and technical knowledge is a fruitful task to closely link party work to economic work, to further enhance the militant spirit and leadership role of party organizations, and to effect endless revolutionary upsurges in implementing the new prospective plan by helping functionaries, workers, scientists and technicians fully display their revolutionary enthusiasm and creative wisdom. It will also help in carrying out economic work in an orderly manner and in thoroughly establishing the economic system, thus providing a turning point in managing our economy more scientifically and rationally.

Party functionaries, including those in the industrial and rural economic sectors, should struggle tirelessly to bring about great advances in implementing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's instructions on party functionaries gaining economic and technical knowledge. By doing so, they should repay the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's great political trust in them with high political awareness and brilliant results in their work. They should carry out the honorable duties assigned them as the revolutionary guidance personnel in today's all-out advance movement.

Deeply aware of the significance of this to socialist construction--especially to accelerating implementation of the new prospective plan--all party functionaries should display high political and ideological determination in carrying out the work.

This is a time of science and technology. We cannot efficiently guide the economy with enthusiasm only. Deeply recognizing that their possession of economic and technical knowledge is directly linked to improving their work with party members, workers, scientists and technicians so as to bring about endless upsurges in production and construction, all party functionaries should exert vigorous efforts to become able functionaries equipped with a high level of such knowledge.

It is important that party functionaries learn steadily in the method of annihilation campaigns, with clear objectives and a specific schedule prioritized according to their individual circumstances. Party functionaries should become well acquainted with works in their own field, thoroughly gaining the economic and technical knowledge keenly needed to implement the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's instructions and the embodiment of these instructions--economic policy--in their own sector.

All party functionaries should deeply grasp knowledge of the chuche-oriented economic management theory and of administrative work provided by our respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

As has been shown by the brilliant results during the first month battle to implement the new prospective plan, important potential for increasing production in the present situation is good economic organization work. To vigorously support administrative economic functionaries conduct their economic organization work, party functionaries should be well versed in economic management and administrative work. They should thoroughly study and learn how to more efficiently manage enterprises as required by the new agricultural guidance system and the taean work system, the chuche-based socialist management system created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. They should also be well acquainted with matters such as planning work, technical guidance, facility management, technical innovation, guaranteeing material supply, labor administration and other economic management work.

Thus they should ensure that economic work order and norms are strictly observed in every sector and post of the people's economy as required by the tae'an work system, and that the producing masses participate broadly in the management of enterprises. They should work to normalize production at a high level by regularizing and standardizing activities of the enterprises.

So that party functionaries in plants and primary level party functionaries in ri may be well acquainted with industry and agriculture respectively, all party functionaries should thoroughly master scientific and technical knowledge. Only when party functionaries are well versed in science and technology can the 1 million strong force of technicians and experts across the country vigorously implement the three principles of the people's economy--chuche-orientation, modernization and scientification--by bringing into full play their wisdom and ability.

All party functionaries should be familiar with the basic scientific and technological theories of their own production sectors, with the industrial electronics and automation necessary for mechanizing, semiautomating and automating production processes, and with trends of modern scientific and technological developments. Party functionaries should put special emphasis on and study the scientific and technological problems which must be solved for chuche-orientation within their own sectors during the period of the new prospective plan.

In gaining economic and technical knowledge, party functionaries should inherit the revolutionary study spirit of the anti-Japanese guerrillas and become enthusiasts and self-educated men. In the past, the anti Japanese guerrillas did not stop learning even under the worst conditions in which they had to go hungry. With this revolutionary study spirit and method, all party functionaries should unyieldingly study economics, science and technology along with the economic policy of the party.

Everyone should take study as the first revolutionary task, read books diligently and practice their skills, striving to change learning into practical, living knowledge. Such knowledge and skills applicable to guidance of economic work can be obtained when party functionaries engage in practical situations which are filled with innovations. The teachers who know best about the actualities of production and scientific technology are the very masses of technicians and producers. Party functionaries should go closely associate with the masses of scientists, technicians and producers and frankly study science and technology with them. Party functionaries should discuss with and help the masses to actively solve scientific and technological problems.

Guidance and support by party organizations should be strengthened to help the party functionaries gain economic and technical knowledge. Party organizations at all levels should pay special attention to the work of producing competent party functionaries who have economic and technical knowledge. Party organizations should actively organize classes, lectures and training, help party functionaries go deeper into reality to learn, and actively conduct good scientific and technological information work.

For our party functionaries to gain deep economic and technical knowledge, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's instructions and the party's appeal, is a meaningful task aimed at becoming able leading members of the revolution so as to vigorously wage the all-out advance to implement the new prospective plan. Let all party functionaries accelerate economic construction by bringing about a new upsurge in gaining economic and technical knowledge so as to advance the great cause of socialism and communism! Let all party functionaries gain economic and technical knowledge!

NODONG SINMUN ON NEED FOR RAPID SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

SK180710Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0001 GMT 13 Mar 78 SK

[NODONG SINMUN 13 March editorial: "Let Us Bring About a New Turning Point in the Development of Science and Technology"]

[Text] Upholding the party Central Committee's letter to all party members, the entire party and all people have embarked on a new, all-out movement to accomplish the second 7-year plan ahead of schedule. Under the circumstances, it is becoming increasingly urgent to rapidly develop the nation's science and technology. The rapid development of science and technology contributes to successfully building socialism and communism. This is our party's invariable policy.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: We must make bold progress in scientific research and quickly catch up with and surpass the scientific and technological level of the developed nations. As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught, the most glorious and sacred duty confronted by the communists after the emancipation of working people from exploitation and repression, is to relieve them of the hardships of labor. Therefore, the nation's science and technology must be developed at a rapid pace.

By developing science and technology, we can enhance production capacity, relieve people of arduous work, provide a rich and happy life for them and successfully attain the material fortress of socialism and communism.

This is a time when science and technology are rapidly developing. Their role is being further enhanced in increasing production capacity and consolidating the nation's might. The new plan advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is for a scientific and technological revolution to make the national economy chuche-oriented, modern and scientific. To brilliantly accomplish the new plan for prosperity and development unprecedented in our fatherland's long history, we must first of all bring about a great revolution in the development of science and technology.

Today, we have the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who pays deep and constant attention to the development of the nation's science and technology. We also possess our party's correct policy regarding science, and a firm foundation upon which science and technology can rapidly develop.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, we have brilliantly carried out the nation's industrialization. We have mighty scientific research bases and a million scientists, technicians and specialists able to fully solve all scientific and technological problems arising in socialist construction. If all scientists, technicians and people struggle with lofty ideological resolve, we can attain any scientific fortress.

With the undaunted revolutionary, fighting spirit with which the anti-Japanese guerrillas produced explosives with their bare hands, and with the zeal and spirit with which we carried out the industrialization of the nation after the war, all party members and working people must invariably adhere to the struggle to develop more rapidly our nation's science and technology.

The primary responsibility for the rewarding struggle to develop the nation's science and technology falls upon the scientists and technicians.

The party has great expectations in regard to the scientists and technicians who are endlessly loyal to the party and revolution and who have made a great contribution to the nation's prosperity. They face arduous tasks in implementing the new plan. They are fully aware of their heavy responsibility for the rapid development of the nation's science and technology, and thus must exert strenuous efforts in regard to scientific research and technological development and make an active contribution to the struggle to attain the great heights of the new plan.

We must place great emphasis on thoroughly establishing *chuche* in scientific research work and exerting every effort to solve urgent scientific and technological problems arising from socialist economic construction. This is an invariable principle of our party and a most important issue in making the national economy *chuche*-oriented, modern and scientific.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: In the scientific sector, we must exert every effort to effectively use the existing economic foundation, further reinforce the *chuche* characteristics of our industry and solve scientific and technological problems in developing the technical revolution to a higher stage. In addition, we must actively develop new scientific and technological fields.

During the new prospective plan, efforts should be made to scientifically and technically solve industrial raw material and fuel problems by fully developing and using domestic resources. Emphasis should be placed on developing mechanical engineering in order to manufacture efficient and modern mechanical facilities in keeping with our country's situation. We should strive, in particular, for rapid development of the electronic and automation industries. Thus we should demonstrate the boundless might and superiority of a socialist nation's self-reliant economy by thoroughly intensifying technical independence and *chuche*-oriented industry.

We should obtain new varieties of major crops, including rice and corn and industrial crops. Scientific research should be intensified so that scientific and technical problems concerning agricultural cultivation are solved, so that any influence of the cold front can be overcome and so that a constant upsurge can be achieved on the agricultural front.

At the same time, we should actively develop new [word indistinct] as demanded in the construction of the socialist economy and development of science and technology, and bolster the basic sciences by introducing modern scientific results. To intensify creative innovations among scientists, and among workers and farmers, is an important guarantee for developing science and technology on a mass foundation and for combining theory and implementation, science and production. Scientists and technicians, rejecting passiveness and conservatism, should go to production sites and both teach and learn from the producing masses. They should solve scientific and technological problems by sharing their strength and wisdom with the producing masses, and make an active effort to widely introduce the results of scientific research, creative work and devices into production.

The scientific research institutes, scientists and technicians should demonstrate the revolutionary resolve to share the results of research and experience gained in their respective fields and to assist one another.

In all sectors of the people's economy, we should effect mass technical innovations; courageously innovate in technology and realize mechanization, automation and semiautomation; and brilliantly implement the party's policy of carrying out the three technical revolutions. An upgrade in the quality of scientists and technicians in scientific and theoretical terms is important for the rapid development of our nation's science and technology. Scientists and technicians should be aware they cannot fulfill their duties and mission as required by the party and revolution unless they are highly qualified. They should also make every effort to resolutely promote the level of the scientific theory by creating a revolutionary desire for study.

All scientists and technicians must arm themselves with the immortal chuche ideology and firmly establish a revolutionary world outlook. At the same time, they must possess a profound knowledge of fundamental science, technical engineering, and modern science and technology, be thoroughly familiar with their specialized scientific fields and possess a knowledge of many foreign languages. Thus, they must make themselves able and useful persons.

Party organizations and leading functionaries must improve organizational guidance work. This is a key factor in guaranteeing the rapidity and quality of scientific research work. Above all, party organizations and functionaries, properly carrying out work with scientists and technicians, must accelerate their revolutionization and proletarianization and, thus, have them devote their lives to scientific work and to the acceleration of socialist construction.

In addition, party organizations and functionaries must reorganize scientific research bases, fully supply modern scientific research facilities and materials, and provide all conditions so that scientists and technicians may devote themselves to research work. In particular, they must adhere to the work of correctly assigning scientists and technicians to the right research topics, and helping and guiding them so that they can responsibly accomplish their tasks in a timely manner.

The struggle to upgrade the nation's science and technology to a higher stage is a rewarding one aimed at successfully attaining the heights of the new prospective plan and bringing about the fatherland's endless prosperity and development.

Let us more firmly rally around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, uphold the party's militant appeal and effect an epochal turning point in the development of the nation's science and technology.

MONTH-LONG SECOND YOUTH FESTIVAL BEGINS 10 MARCH

SK211130Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 12 Mar 78 SK

[Text] The second youth festival got under way 10 March throughout the country. The aim of the festival is to help students prepare themselves as chuche-type revolutionaries who are endlessly loyal and faithful to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and as fully developed builders of socialism and communism. This second festival, which lasted until 15 April, was held 2 years after the holding of the first festival.

The festival consists of three parts--political, artistic and sports--and local events will follow central events. Attending the festival will be functionaries of the League of Socialist Working Youth and the Youth Corps, youth from various social segments and students of schools at all levels.

A central opening ceremony was held at the People's Cultural Palace on 10 March in connection with the holding of the festival, with the attendance of working youth and students from Pyongyang. Respectfully hung on the front wall of the hall was the portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song--respected and beloved leader of our party and people. Posted in the meeting hall were slogans reading "Long Live the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" and "We Respectfully Wish the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song a Long Life."

The meeting opened with the singing of the Song of General Kim Il-song. Following the opening speech, representatives of working youth, students and school children held discussions. Those who delivered speeches and held discussions pointed out that the great leader has paid great attention to helping youth hold a grand youth festival of loyalty, following an interval of 2 years. They then said that this festival has provided the growing new generation with an important opportunity to help prepare themselves as true revolutionaries who will inherit the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: Youth are the masters of our fatherland's future. We can say that the future of a nation greatly depends upon how youth are indoctrinated, trained and prepared.

Regarding the education and indoctrination of youth as an important factor affecting the future of the revolution, the great leader has guided the Korean communist youth movement along a single, victorious and glorious path by developing and brilliantly materializing a unique ideology regarding the youth movement.

Those who spoke and participated in discussions said in moving and excited voices that the respected and beloved leader, who participated in the Korean revolution and opened a new era in the Korean youth movement, has tenderly and benevolently embraced the growing new generation, loved them, displayed confidence in them and brought them up to become the inheritors of socialist and communist construction--thus helping them to push ahead with the chuche revolutionary cause. They called on organizations of the League of Socialist Working Youth and youth to actively participate in the second nationwide festival with burning loyalty to the great leader and with a lofty political consciousness.

In particular, they urged that the participants should deepen and develop the festival's work by sincerely reviewing and consolidating the achievements and experience attained in the work of learning and following the example the leader set in his boyhood, and by upholding the slogan of loyalty: "Let Us Study, Following the Great Leader."

They also urged youth to firmly prepare themselves as honor guards and do-or-die unit members who are endlessly loyal and faithful to the great leader by accumulating knowledge useful to revolution and construction through diligent study, by possessing the noble character of loving the government's and peoples' property, including railways, by adhering to public morality and by developing their cultural standards and physical strength.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the song "We Wish the Leader a Long Life."

The ceremony marking the opening of the second nationwide youth festival of loyalty was held the same day in provinces, cities and counties. Following the meeting, various events were held to mark the festival.

NODONG SINMUN CALLS FOR UNIFIED ECONOMIC PLANNING

OW201627Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1552 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 20 Mar (KCNA)--NODONG SINMUN 19 March carried an article headlined "Unified and Detailed Planning Is Most Scientific Policy of Planning to Successfully Manage and Run the Economy."

The policy of unified and detailed planning put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a revolutionary policy for working out a correct plan to suit the demand of the party's policies and the objective reality and most successfully managing and running the socialist economy by correctly combining the centralized guidance of the state and the mass line in the work of planning, the article says, and goes on: First of all, unified and detailed planning helps strengthen the centralized and unified guidance of the state over the work of planning to fully meet the demand of the party's policies in the development of the economy.

Unified and detailed planning makes the functionaries of the planning organs who are well aware of the intention of the party and the demand of the state go to production sites and directly conduct the work of planning so as to thoroughly subordinate planning in all domains of the national economy and at factories and enterprises to the requirements of the party's policies. It also makes the functionaries of the planning organs gear the economic activities in each domain and at each factory and enterprise to the state plan assuming the character of law, so that the requirements of the party and the state can be thoroughly met in the economic activities down to all detailed aspects and concrete links. It also helps eliminate thoroughly the localism and departmentalism of the organs in the work planning.

The article goes on: Unified and detailed planning also makes it possible to work out a plan and fully meet it in conformity with the objective reality by carrying out the party's mass line in the work of planning so as to manage and run the socialist economy scientifically and rationally.

Unified and detailed planning makes the functionaries of the planning organs go deep among the masses and carry out the work of planning, discussing it with them in accordance with the well-regulated planning system and thus overcome subjectivism and dogmatism and work out a scientific plan to suit the objective reality.

Pointing out that unified and detailed planning is the scientific policy of planning to develop the country's economy at a balanced and fast tempo in conformity with the requirements of the socialist law of economy, the article stresses.

Unified and detailed planning makes the state grasp and plan the economic activities in all spheres and units of the national economy down to details in a uniform way to organically and extensively ensure comprehensive and detailed balance. It also makes it possible to work out a detailed plan to gear all the economic activities squarely down to details and firmly ensure balance in the development of the economy.

To more firmly adhere to and thoroughly carry out our party's policy of unified and detailed planning in the building of the socialist economy is a sure guarantee for developing economy at a faster tempo on the basis of correct balance, stresses the article.

PRODUCTION OF COAL, ORE MINES INCREASES OVER LAST YEAR

OW201651Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1601 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 20 Mar (KCNA)--The coal and ore output as of March 10 this year showed an increase of 1.2 times and 1.5 times respectively above that in the same period last year, according to data available from the Committee of Mining Industry.

The committee carried out its February plan at 105 percent after overfulfilling the January plan. The February plan was fulfilled at 101 percent by the General Bureau of Coal Industry and at 105 percent by the General Bureau of Mining Industry. This success is being expanded in March.

At the combined Anju Coal Mine, a mechanized tunnelling platoon tunnelled 606 metres and a dynamiting tunnelling platoon 411.5 metres a month at a pit, and a hewing company produced 45,000 tons of coal a month.

In the second seven-year plan period our independent fuel and raw material bases will be further consolidated in accordance with the policy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on placing the mining industry decisively ahead of other domains.

In this period coal output will reach 70-80 million tons and ore production 16 million tons, and the output of non-ferrous metals will rise to one million tons.

Along with the reconstruction and expansion of existing large-scale coal mines including projects for increasing the production capacity of the Combined Anju Coal Mine 3-4 times, work is progressing apace to speed up the construction of new large coal mines. Work for increasing output per coal mine and per pit and the projects for developing medium and small coal mines are also going on successfully.

Projects are making headway to expand the Musan mine into a large modern iron mine with annual production capacity of 10 million tons of magnetic iron ore headings. The construction of the Toksong and Sohaeri mines, large-scale mines, is also progressing rapidly.

In the domain of non-ferrous metal production, efforts are concentrated on the development of mines in the Tanchon area including the project for increasing three times the production capacity of the Komdok mine with large deposits and bright prospect for development. Along with the expansion of the existing ore and coal mines, new large non-ferrous metal mines and medium and small mines will be developed extensively during the new long-term plan period.

ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION PLANS FOR 1978 BEING SURPASSED

OW201327Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 20 Mar (KCNA)--The power industrial workers fulfilled their plan for the production of electric power at 107 percent in the recent 10 days. They surpassed their commitments for the first two months of the year.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, solid material and technical foundations of power industry were laid during the six-year plan period in our country.

In this period, the Pukchang thermal power plant was expanded into a gigantic power base with a capacity of 1.2 million kw and the large Sodusu No. 1 and No. 2 power stations and Unggi and Chongchon-gang thermal power plants were commissioned.

Meanwhile, the construction of the Taedong-gang power station and the Wiwon and Huichon power stations was powerfully promoted. The target of 28,000 million kwh envisaged in the six-year plan was hit one year and four months ahead of time.

The proportion of thermal power held more than a half in the total power generating capacity last year. Now our power industry has done away with the seasonal fluctuation in production and become able to fully meet the demand of the national economy for power under any adverse weather conditions.

During the second seven-year plan period, we will build new large thermal power plants while increasing the capacity of the existing ones, and thermal power plants for the heating of major cities and many factory thermal power stations for using surplus and waste heat will crop up in large numbers.

The construction of the Taedong-gang and Wiwon power stations and the Huichon power station No 2 will be completed shortly and new large hydraulic stations and medium and small scale hydraulic power stations will be built in great numbers.

When the new seven-year plan is fulfilled our power industry will be further consolidated. In 1984, the last year of the new seven-year plan, our power industry will produce 56,000-60,000 million kwh of electric power.

REUNIFICATION COMMITTEE CONDEMNS ROK'S SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN

SK150359Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0350 GMT 15 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 15 Mar (KCNA)--The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland on March 13 made public information No 46 denouncing the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique for its fascist suppression of South Korean women workers.

Recalling that the South Korean puppets arrested 30 women workers when they insisted on their legitimate rights at a "government"-sponsored "labour day ceremony" on March 10, it sternly condemned this fascist suppression as an intolerable act strangling human rights.

It said: The Pak Chong-hui clique of traitors banned the celebration of May Day, the international holiday of the working class, in South Korea and forced upon the workers instead of it the cursed "Labour Day," March 10, when they framed up the puppet Federation of Trade Unions under their control. They demand the workers' unconditional submission under the motto "worker-employer cooperation" and exploit them, working them like animals.

Recently, the South Korean women workers rose in a massive resistance, shouting: "Down with the bosses of the pro-government trade union!" "Legalize the trade union movement!" This was an eruption of the pent-up resentment at the criminal acts of the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique and was fully justifiable. Nevertheless, the South Korean puppets, while staging a frantic war exercise, ran riot in fascist frenzy, repressing this righteous demand of the women workers at the point of the bayonet and arresting and imprisoning them in group.

The information noted that the South Korean fascist clique's suppression of the women workers revealed the intention of traitor Pak Chong-hui to put down the ever-growing anti-"government" sentiments of the people with the fascist fist-law and stay in the chair of "president" at any cost this year to enjoy personal wealth and glory.

PAK STEPS UP SUPPRESSION OF SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS

OW221105Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 22 Mar (KCNA)--The puppet clique's suppression of the South Korean students has become more frantic since Pak Chong-hui the puppet hell bent on the fascist suppression of the people turned up at the puppet Ministry of Education on 2 February and shouted that he would not "pardon" the struggle of students against the "yusin system."

The wholesale "punishment" of students started at various universities and colleges of South Korea in mid-February.

Four hundred thirty students of the Koryo University, 462 students of the Hanyang University and 259 students of the Kyonghui University in Seoul were expelled from the schools or given other punishment in mid-February on unreasonable pretexts. Such fascist steps were taken in all other universities and colleges of South Korea on orders of the puppets.

Various punishment including expulsion was inflicted upon some 6,000 students from 17 February to early March.

The puppets held trials one after another to impose penalties upon the arrested students in an attempt to frighten the students and prevent their struggle.

To cite an instance, they referred Japan-resident Korean students to a murderous trial on 9 March and sentenced Yu Yong-su studying at the postgraduate course of the Pusan University to life imprisonment, Kim Chong-sa at the Seoul University to 10 years in prison and Yu Song-sam and Son Chong-cha at the Hanyang University to 3 years in prison. Earlier, on 10 February the puppets imposed prison terms up to 5 years upon 7 students of the Yonse University who fought last year against fascism and for democracy and on 24 and 28 February they penalized Pak Chong-yol, student of the Seoul University, and Kim Ha-pom, student of the "Hanguk Theological College," through murderous trials.

The Pak Chong-hui puppet clique's suppression of South Korean students is indicative of the frantic attempt of the tightly cornered to prolong their dirty remaining days by brandishing bayonets.

NODONG SINMUN HAILS SYRIAN NATIONAL DAY

OW171821Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1546 GMT 8 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--Papers here today extend warm greetings to the friendly Syrian people on the revolution day. An article in NODONG SINMUN says: Since the victory of the revolution the Syrian people under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad have achieved big successes in the struggle for the independent development of the country and territorial integrity.

It points to the successes made by them in the fields of industry, agriculture, education, culture and public health. Noting that externally the Government of Syria pursues the policy of non-alignment and the Syrian people are struggling against the Zionists and for retaking the occupied Arab land and restoring the national rights of the Palestinian people, the article continues:

The Korean people heartily rejoice at the successes made by the Syrian people in building a new life and support their just struggle. The peoples of our two countries are linked with each other by the bonds of friendship for the community of their historical position and for their common struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for the independent national development. The government and people of Syria highly praise the successes made by our people in the socialist construction under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and express firm support and encouragement to their cause of national reunification. Pleased with the steady development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in conformity with the desire and aspiration of their peoples, the Korean people will actively strive to strengthen and develop these relations with the Syrian people in the future.

O CHIN-U GREETES MONGOLIAN ARMY ANNIVERSARY

SK180420Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 18 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 18 Mar (KCNA)--General O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message to General B. Dorj, minister of defence of the Mongolian People's Republic, greeting the 57th anniversary of the founding of the Mongolian People's Army.

In the message, General O Chin-u extended warm felicitations and militant salutations to the defence minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and the officers and men of the Mongolian People's Army, on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the founding of the MPA, and expressed his hope for new success in the work for increasing the defence capacity of Mongolia.

GABONESE PRESIDENT RECEIVES SPECIAL ENVOY

SK180405Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0330 GMT 18 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 18 Mar (KCNA)--El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, on 14 March received Yi Chang-son on a visit to Gabon as special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, according to a report.

The special envoy courteously conveyed the cordial greetings and personal letter of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the Gabonese president.

The president expressed deep thanks for the cordial greetings and personal letter of the great leader and his dispatch of special envoy to the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Party of Gabon.

Referring to the question of Korean reunification, the president emphasized: As respected and beloved President Kim Il-song said, the reunification of Korea should be achieved by the Korean people themselves in a peaceful way free from foreign interference.

Denouncing the attempt of the splittists at the "simultaneous UN membership" of North and South Korea and the "separate UN membership" of South Korea, he stressed: Korea should enter the United Nations as one Korea after her reunification.

He hoped for the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between Gabon and Korea on to a higher stage.

The conversation proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Special Envoy Returns

SK220340Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0332 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 22 Mar (KCNA)--Yi Chang-song, who had visited the Republic of Gabon as a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, returned to Pyongyang by plane on 21 March. He was met at the airport by personages concerned Kim Yong-chae, Chang Chol and Kil Chae-kyong and by Lendoye Jean-Rochette, councillor of the Gabonese Embassy in Pyongyang.

PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR TO DPRK HOSTS BANQUET

SK220410Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 22 Mar (KCNA)--Anwar Said, Pakistani ambassador to Korea, hosted a banquet at his embassy on 21 March on the occasion of day of Pakistan. Among the guests of honour were Comrades Pak Song-chol, Ho Tam and Kong Chin-tae; and personages concerned Kim Si-hak, Pak Chung-kuk, Yi Hwa-son, Kwon Hui-kyong and Kim Sok-chin. Toasts were made by Anwar Said and comrade Ho Tam at the banquet.

The attendants drank glasses to the friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Pakistani peoples, to the good health and long life of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our people, and to the good health and long life of respected His Excellency Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, head of the government and chief martial law administrator of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The banquet proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

SERBIAN DELEGATION ENDS VISIT 18 MARCH

OW191115Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 19 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 19 Mar (KCNA)--The delegation of the Serbia Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia [SSRY], headed by Petar Kostic, vice-premier of the Executive Council of the SSRY, which had been on a visit to our country, left Pyongyang by plane on 18 March. It was seen off at the airport by Kim Il-tae and other personages concerned, and Tode Vardziski, Yugoslav ambassador to our country.

While staying in Korea, the delegation toured historic sites of revolution. It also visited the central industrial-agricultural exhibition and industrial establishments in Hamhung.

The guests congratulated the Korean people upon their successes in the socialist construction.

SUDANESE DELEGATION DEPARTS PYONGYANG

SK220345Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0338 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 22 Mar (KCNA)--The government civil aviation delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan headed by Ahmed Abdulla Atta, assistant director of the Civil Aviation Department of the Sudan, left Pyongyang on 21 March by plane upon conclusion of its visit to Korea.

While staying here, the delegation was shown round various places of Pyongyang.

SEOUL DAILY: DIALOG FAILURE MAY HERALD DEEPENING CONFRONTATION

SK220030Y Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Mar 78 p 4 SK

[Editorial: "North's Dialogue Rebuff"]

[Text] North Korea's rebuff of the South-North Red Cross working-level meeting, that had been scheduled for Monday, raises the profound fear that the communist leaders in Pyongyang may have decided to close the last remaining nominal avenue of dialogue between South and North Korea. If communist North Korea has really decided so, it could be a very ominous development since the alternative to dialogue may be a continual deepening of confrontation. In fact, Pyongyang has continued to reduce dialogue devices ever since it unilaterally suspended the full-scale sessions of the political South-North Coordinating Committee and the humanitarian Red Cross talks in August 1973.

The dialogue at the two levels had intermittently proceeded for barely one year when Pyongyang suspended the plenary sessions at the two levels in an abrupt and unilateral manner without giving justifiable reasons. In suspending plenary sessions of the two-level talks, North Korea, however, agreed to keep some lower channels of communication alive in an apparent move to give the outside world the impression that it was maintaining dialogue with its brethren in the South. In lieu of plenary sessions, the North attended the vice chairmen's meeting of the South-North Coordinating Committee, but this channel was broken off in 1975 when Pyongyang boycotted it.

Working-level Red Cross meetings had been held at growingly longer intervals with the last (25th) session held on 9 Dec. 1977. It was agreed in the 25th session of the working-level Red Cross meeting that the 26th session would be held Monday. Only hours before the scheduled time for the 26th session, the North Korean Red Cross notified our Red Cross through Radio Pyongyang that it was postponing the session. As North Korea unilaterally cut off the South-North direct phone link in August of last year in the process of shrinking contacts with the South, public radio broadcasting systems had to be used to exchange messages between the Red Cross societies of South and North Korea.

Pyongyang's reason for boycotting the working-level Red Cross meeting, as given on Radio Pyongyang, was "Team Spirit '78" the Korea-U.S. joint military exercise which was concluded over the weekend. This combined military maneuver was planned to insure the defense of this country in the event of the North's all-out attack upon the South. More fundamentally, military exercises of such a nature have been necessitated by the North's unrelenting bellicose stance against our republic as well as the continued augmentation of its military capability of a highly offensive nature. The purpose of the South-North Red Cross talks, proposed originally by this country, is to deal with humanitarian problems such as easing the sufferings of millions of dispersed families in the divided halves of the Korean Peninsula.

Thus, it is not justifiable for the North to compound Team Spirit '78 with the humanitarian Red Cross talks. The higher objective of the Red Cross talks, as conceived by this nation, is to help mitigate mistrust and misunderstanding between South and North Korea through a solution of humanitarian problems which are generally thought to be less subtle in political sense. The alternative to the total cutoff of any communication with the South will be a collision course that could spell another tragedy and more destruction for the entire Korean people as experienced during the 1950-53 Korean war. By the same token, it is grossly anachronistic for Pyongyang to believe that it can subjugate the South under communism by force of arms.

We once again urge the North Korean communist leaders to be realistic and resume dialogue with the South to conform to the aspirations of the entire Korean people for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL COURT SUPPORTS ROK UN ENTRY

SK220108Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0105 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Seoul, 22 Mar (HAPTONG)--Eduardo Jimenez de Arechaga, president of the International Court of Justice, Tuesday expressed his full support for South Korea's entry into the United Nations, saying that the U.N. membership bid is in accord with the world body's ideal. It will also contribute to bettering the international economic and social climate, he added.

In a press conference held in downtown Seoul prior to his departure for home, Arechaga of Uruguay, citing the rapid changes in world situations, predicted that current political barriers blocking South Korea's bid for U.N. membership would crumble down in the near future.

Saying that the division of the Korean peninsula is very unfortunate, Mr Jimenez expressed hope that the Korean peninsula will be reunified peacefully in accordance with the U.N. Charter and international laws concerned.

The top international jurist left here for home Tuesday, winding up a 4-day visit to Seoul.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE DENOUNCES APARTHEID

SK220150Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0122 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] United Nations, 21 Mar (HAPTONG)--Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin said today that "the Government of the Republic of Korea and its 35 million people stand firmly with the oppressed peoples in southern Africa, and unswervingly support their struggle to bring down the policies of apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination."

In his message released here on the occasion of observing the international day for elimination of racial discrimination and the beginning of the international anti-apartheid year, the foreign minister emphasized that racial discrimination in any form is a profanity to the conscience of humanity and an outright challenge to basic human rights.

He further said that the policies of apartheid and racial discrimination are not only against the letter and the spirit of the U.N. Charter, but also a threat to international peace.

Meanwhile, North Korea, which always claims that it is deadly against apartheid, was known to have sent no message to that effect for the occasion this year or previous years.

PARTY LEADER SAYS NDP MUST 'TURN AWAY' FROM ELECTIONS

SK220310Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0246 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Chonju, North Cholla Province, 22 Mar (HAPTONG)--Rep. Yi Chol-sung, leader of the opposition New Democratic Party, today proposed to the ruling camp to call into session the National Assembly's Consultative Council on Peaceful National Unification to deal with pressing national issues.

The issues the council should tackle include U.S. compensatory measures for the planned withdrawal of U.S. ground forces from Korea, the demand by some U.S. congressional quarters for former Ambassador to the United States Kim Tong-cho's testimony on the alleged Korean influence-buying on Capitol Hill and the suspended South-North Red Cross contact, the minority leader told a press conference.

Rep. Yi met the press to give his views on major intraparty issues and developments at home and abroad on the second day of his visit to his constituency.

"The way for my party to participate in the upcoming NCU (National Conference for Unification) and presidential elections has been blocked. So it has no choice but to turn away from the elections," Rep. Yi said. "However, my party will do all it can to see whether the elections would be conducted in a manner to develop democratic politics," he went on.

Asked if he would seek to meet with President Pak to exchange views on internal and external matters, Rep. Yi said: "I would give a positive consideration if I received such a suggestion."

Denounces NDP Dissidents

SK220130Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0112 GMT 22 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Chonju, 22 Mar (HAPTONG)--Rep. Yi Chol-sung, head of the major opposition New Democratic Party, today denounced intra-party dissident movements as a scheme to divide the party and said he would not tolerate any activity harming the unity of the party.

In his press conference held in his home province of North Cholla, Yi scathingly attacked a call by his rivals for a special party convention to discuss the issue of nominating a candidate in this year's presidential election.

Intra-party dissident activists have said they needed a party convention to decide the question of fielding an official presidential nominee, but it was a mere pretext to wreck the unity of the party, he said. Yi added as far as he is concerned, the question has already been settled since the Central Standing Committee of the party, which has the authority to decide such a question, resolved last January that the party would oppose the present presidential election system itself.

Touching on economic issues, Yi called on the government to discard the present policy of a high economic growth and instead pursue a stabilization policy. He reiterated his call for the resignation of economic ministers for their policy failures.

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN POLITICIAN--Seoul, 21 Mar--John Peter Sim, chairman of the Australian Senate Foreign and Defense Affairs Committee, flew into Seoul Tuesday for a three-day visit. While here, the Australian senator will meet with Premier Choe Kyu-ha, Vice House Speaker Ku Tai-hoe, Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin, Defense Minister No Chae-hyon and other Korean Government and parliamentary leaders to discuss matters of mutual interest. He is also scheduled to make an observation tour of major industrial facilities here. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0815 GMT 21 Mar 78 SK]

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL COURT PRESIDENT--Seoul, 21 Mar--Eduardo Jimenez de Arechaga, visiting president of the International Court of Justice, paid a courtesy call on Chief Justice Min Pok-ki Monday afternoon. Mr Jimenez, following his meeting with the Korean chief justice, gave a lecture on "The Role of the International Court of Justice in Settling War Peacefully" at the conference hall of the Supreme Court in the presence of some 100 judges, prosecutors and lawyers. He is to leave here for home this afternoon winding up a four-day visit to Korea after receiving a honorary doctorate degree in law from the Seoul National University. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0114 GMT 21 Mar 78 SK]

DELEGATION TO IPU MEETING-- Seoul, 20 Mar--Rep. Pak Chun-kyu, chairman of the ruling Republican Party's Policy Committee, left here for Lisbon, Portugal, Sunday to lead a five-man Korean delegation to the 122nd council meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held there 27 March-2 April. Two other congressional missions embarked on separate overseas trips. They are a seven-member team of the Finance Affairs Committee and a five-member mission of the Defense Affairs Unit. The finance panel delegation headed by Rep. Choe Chae-ku will make a three-week-long tour of Europe to observe money markets in the region while the Defense Committee team led by Rep. Yi Chong-chan will observe defense industry facilities in Europe for about 20 days. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0045 GMT 20 Mar 78 SK]

MISSION TO SRI LANKA--Seoul, 20 Mar--An 11-man Korean economic mission composed of government officials and business leaders will leave here for Sri Lanka Wednesday to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. Choe Ho-chung, assistant foreign minister in charge of economic affairs, will head the Korean mission, sources at the Foreign Ministry said. While in Sri Lanka for about a week, the Korean group will have a series of talks with Colombo government officials and business leaders to discuss ways of enhancing economic ties, the sources said. Major topics to be taken up include the joint construction of a free export zone in Sri Lanka, the possibility of Korean construction firms' participation in the land development project initiated by Sri Lanka, the establishment of fishery joint venture firms and the promotion of joint ventures in other industrial fields, the sources added. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0810 GMT 20 Mar 78 SK]

STEEL MILL CONTRACT--Seoul, 20 Mar--Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO) has concluded a contract with Mitsubishi Shoji of Japan under which the Japanese firm will supply plant facilities worth 174 million dollars to the Korean steelmaker for the construction of its second hot-rolling mill, it was learned here today. The signing took place in Seoul Saturday between Pak Tae-chun, president of the Korean firm, and Kyoshi Utsumi, a visiting board member of Mitsubishi Shoji. The construction of the hot-rolling mill proposed under the POSCO's fourth-phase expansion project will cost a total of 130 billion won including foreign exchange outlays, POSCO sources said. When the proposed hot-rolling mill, equipped with a computerized operational system, is dedicated, it will be able to turn out four million tons of slabs a year, almost three times the annual capacity of its first hot-rolling mill now in operation, the sources said. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0815 GMT 20 Mar 78 SK]

TSEDENBAL MESSAGE OF 'WARM SOLIDARITY' TO LEBANON

OW210047Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 0534 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[19 March message from Y. Tsedenbal, chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, to Ilyas Sarkis, president of the Republic of Lebanon]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 19 Mar (MONTSAME)--Your Excellency Mr President: The MPR Government and all Mongolian people angrily condemn the armed aggression against Lebanon carried out by Israeli militarists with the connivance of imperialism and Arab reactionaries, and resolutely demand an immediate halt to these criminal activities that jeopardize international peace and the security of people in this region of the world.

Mr President: At this difficult time for the Lebanese people and the entire Arab nation the Mongolian people express warm solidarity with your people and utmost support for the noble struggle to defend the national independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and express support for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of insuring the lawful rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Y. Tsedenbal, chairman of the Presidium of the MPR People's Great Hural

MPA 57TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN ULAANBAATAR

OW181433Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1508 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 17 Mar (MONTSAME)--A solemn meeting devoted to the 57th MPA anniversary was held today in the capital's officers club. On the presidium were Y. Tsedenbal, J. Batmornh and other MPR party and government leaders, distinguished military commanders of the MPA, veterans of the revolutionary struggle and representatives of the capital's working people and military units of the Ulaanbaatar garrison as well as the Soviet military delegation headed by Army Gen I.I. Gusakovskiy, twice hero of the Soviet Union, which is taking part in the celebrations marking the MPA anniversary.

Maj Gen C. Purebdorj, MPR first deputy minister of defense and chief of the MPA General Staff, addressed the meeting. He noted the lofty moral and political upsurge evoked among the country's working people by the celebration of the 57th MPA anniversary. He said: The MPA, born in the fire of revolutionary struggle which developed in the country under the direct influence of the most outstanding event in the history of mankind--the Great October Revolution--has traversed a glorious militant road of struggle and victory. The building of the MPR progressed along the road of creating an army of a new type, whose prototype was the Red Army.

Soldiers of the People's Army, in fulfilling party and government tasks, have tirelessly raised the quality of their military and political training, persistently studied the achievements of modern military science and tirelessly mastered complex modern weapons and military equipment. The MPRP's wise leadership and its constant concern are the source of MPA successes, victories, strength and might. An important source of all MPA victories and successes and its steady growth and development is the inviolable friendship and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union and its glorious armed forces, the speaker stressed.

Army Gen I.I. Gusevskiy, head of the Soviet military delegation, delivered a speech at the meeting in which he said in particular that the military-political and class union, the fraternal friendship and military cooperation between the Mongolian and Soviet peoples were strengthened and developed in joint struggle against imperialist aggressors.

Lt Gen Yondonduychir Talk

OW181445Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1459 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 17 Mar (MONTSAME)--The MPA, whose 57th anniversary we will solemnly observe tomorrow, has traversed a heroic road of struggle and victories in defending the revolutionary achievements of the Mongolian people. It was created under the direct leadership of Damdiny Suhbaatar, glorious son of our people, noted Lt Gen D. Yondonduychir, chief of the MPA Political Administration, in his talk with a MONTSAME correspondent.

The birth of the MPA is a remarkable result of the everlasting, inviolable Mongolian-Soviet friendship, the Mongolian general said. Valiant MPA soldiers, marching shoulder to shoulder with the heroic Red Army of the Soviet Union, insured the victory of the Mongolian people's revolution of 1921. Later in 1939, the fraternal armies of our countries heroically defended Mongolia's state sovereignty and territorial integrity, striking a crushing blow against the Japanese aggressors.

In fulfilling its international duty, the MPA actively participated in liberating the oppressed peoples of China from the colonial enslavement of the Japanese invaders in 1945. Friendship and militant cooperation between the MPA and the Soviet Army grew stronger in all these class battles, D. Yondonduychir stressed. Therefore, we are proud of the sincere, fraternal friendship between Mongolian and Soviet peoples and their armed forces, dependable guardsmen of the peaceful life of the peoples of the two countries.

The MPA now loyally and staunchly guards socialist accomplishments. MPA soldiers, constantly studying the remarkable traditions of the Soviet Army, are tirelessly raising the level of their military and political training and persistently mastering modern achievements of military science, the chief of the MPA Political Administration stressed.

The party and government of the MPR have been devoting constant attention to the further strengthening of the MPR armed forces. As a result, the army's fighting efficiency has been considerably raised and qualitative changes have been made in its personnel. The general educational level of military servicemen has been greatly raised, D. Yondonduychir said. The great majority of MPA officers have higher, specialized military education.

UNEN Editorial

OW210653Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 18 Mar (MONTSAME)--Some 57 years have passed since detachments of people's volunteers, under the leadership of D. Suhbaatar, prominent son of the Mongolian people, smashed the Chinese militarists near Kyakhta, says an UNEN editorial today devoted to the anniversary of the MPA. The people's volunteers had begun the struggle in response to the party's appeal.

The MPA, born in the fire of people's revolution, followed the wise leadership of the MPRP, won the warm love and respect of the Mongolian people and developed with the assistance of the Soviet Union and its armed forces. For the past 57 years the MPA has guarded the motherland's peaceful life, the editorial says.

The solemn celebration in the MPR of the 60th anniversary of the valiant Soviet armed forces attested to the sacred friendship of the two people and the militant cooperation between the two fraternal armies, UNEN stresses. The brilliant victories achieved by the MPA together with the heroic Soviet Army over the common enemy in battles against the Japanese militarists at Halhain Gol in 1939 and in the final stages of World War II in 1945 have been inscribed in gold in the history of our motherland. Noting the great attention devoted by the MPRP to heightening the fighting skills of troops and their training, UNEN stresses that the immortal feats of the MPA and its 57-year history are inextricably linked to the wise leadership of the MPRP. The MPRP, which armed itself with the brilliant teaching of V. I. Lenin on the defense of the socialist fatherland and on a socialist new-type army, views the question of strengthening the defense capability of the country as an inseparable part of state construction, the paper writes.

Presently, the MPA has become a modern army equipped with the most modern weapons and military equipment and is boundlessly loyal to the cause of the party and people, UNEN stresses.

Wreath-Laying Ceremony

OW181437Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1447 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 17 Mar (MONTSAME)--On the occasion of the 57th MPA anniversary, a wreath-laying ceremony was held here today at the tomb of D. Suhbaatar and H. Choybalsan, founders of the MPRP and the people's state, and at the monument to Soviet soldiers on the Dzaysan Mountain.

The wreaths were laid on behalf of the MPR Ministry of Defense; the MPR Ministry of Public Security; the Soviet military delegation, which is in the MPR to take part in celebrations of the 57th MPA anniversary; the MPR Committee of Veterans of Revolutionary Struggle; the Ulaanbaatar City MPRP Committee; the Ulaanbaatar City Hural Executive Administration; representatives of the working people; and students and youths of the Mongolian capital.

Present at the ceremony were B. Altangerel, candidate member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ulaanbaatar City MPRP Committee; S. Lubsangombo, deputy chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers; S. Bataa, chief of a department of the MPRP Central Committee; Army Gen B. Dorj, MPR minister of Defense; Lt Gen D. Yondonduychir, chief of the MPA Political Administration; and other officials. The Soviet military delegation headed by Army Gen I. Gusakovskiy, twice hero of the Soviet Union, and Maj Gen V. Fedotov, military and air force attache of the USSR Embassy in the MPR, were also present.

PRC Refuses Wreath

OW200546Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 0520 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 19 Mar (MONTSAME)--The MPR Embassy in the PRC has once again been refused permission to lay wreaths at a monument in Chiangchiakou (northern China) on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army. The monument commemorates Mongolian soldiers who fell in battles against Japanese imperialism and for the liberation of the Chinese people.

POL POT 17 MARCH INTERVIEW WITH YUGOSLAV JOURNALIST DELEGATION

BK210500Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[KCP Central Committee Secretary and Democratic Cambodian Prime Minister Pol Pot's 17 March interview with Yugoslav press delegation--read by announcers]

[Text] At 0830 on 17 March 1978 at the state guest house, Comrade Pol Pot, secretary of the KCP Central Committee and prime minister of the Democratic Cambodian Government, received and was interviewed by the Yugoslav press delegation.

First, the party secretary said to the friendly journalists: We are very pleased with the Yugoslav press delegation's visit to our country. Your visit will further strengthen the ties of friendship between our two peoples and countries. Like our Democratic Cambodia, Yugoslavia is a nonaligned country which has adhered to a policy of preserving independence. Friendship between our two countries is therefore based on the same principle.

We have always highly valued and respected Comrade President Tito and the friendly Yugoslav people. They have always supported and helped us. We have sympathy for them and wish to express our thanks to them. In 1950 I went to Yugoslavia to work in a work unit in the Zagreb area. I have sympathy for President Tito and the Yugoslav people. Comrades, you come to our country as friends. Now I will answer your questions.

Question: Respected Comrade Pol Pot, within a short time you will celebrate the third anniversary of your country's liberation. would you please tell us about the outstanding results of your work of national construction and rehabilitation during the last 3 years.

Answer: For almost 3 years we have rehabilitated and built the country and achieved a fairly large number of good results. However, we would like to tell you at the same time that we still have a lot of work to do. The first outstanding achievement is our success in solving the agricultural problem, particularly in rice growing. Since we have succeeded in increasing the rice yield, we have enough rice to feed ourselves. In 1976 we initiated a plan to produce 3 tons of rice per hectare. We achieved 80 to 90 percent of this production plan. This allowed us to solve the problem of the people's livelihood and still have rice for export. In 1977 we planned to produce 3 tons of rice on each hectare of one-crop land and 6 tons of rice on each hectare of two-crop land. We fulfilled nearly 100 percent of this plan. That is why our 1977 rice yield was larger than that of 1976. As a result, our people's living conditions have improved and we still have rice for export. Our slogan is: When we have rice we can have everything. When the people have rice to satisfy their needs we also have rice for export, and then we can import all the necessary commodities.

As I told you earlier, our success in agriculture resulted from our having developed its basis--irrigation. The existence of irrigation systems can secure a high yield for rice and other farm products. Along with the development of agriculture, other fields can also develop. Industry, handicrafts, social action and culture can develop and expand in accord with our agricultural policy.

Another outstanding success is the eradication of malaria, which represented a danger to more than 80 percent of our population. In the past our people were stricken by malaria each year and had difficulty performing their work. Now that we have solved more than 90 percent of the malaria eradication problem, our people's health is far better than before.

Another outstanding result of our work is our success in basically eradicating illiteracy, which was a social disease in the old society. It is true that in the old society there were some universities and secondary and primary schools in large cities and towns, but the majority of our people in the remote areas of the countryside were illiterate. This problem has now been essentially solved. People can read and write. This enables them to gradually enhance their culture. It is not just one segment of our population which has a chance to study--all of our people now have the chance. We have adopted this basis for the development and advancement of our education.

Other advances are not so important. However, we wish to inform you that we have organized our health system throughout the country, particularly in our cooperatives. Each cooperative has an infirmary and a pharmaceutical production center. Pharmaceutical products are prepared in accordance with national and popular methods. Through this effort we have largely succeeded in solving the public health problem. Conditions are now different than they were before. In the past there were medical staff members only in Phnom Penh and other major towns, but now medical corps members are stationed throughout the country and in our cooperatives. Medical services are now available even to people in remote areas. This medical service is only basic, but on this basis we will gradually improve our medical capability.

In regard to handicrafts and small industrial workshops, we have not achieved any significant results. However, we have set up workshops everywhere. Every cooperative has its own handicraft shops and workshops. This is the foundation for the development of handicrafts and the gradual industrial development of our country.

These outstanding successes were due to the efforts of our KCP-led people. The people have done all this by themselves--they have seen the results and have taken pleasure in them.

Question: During our short stay in your beautiful country, we have seen signs that your revolution is completely cut off from the past. What sort of a model of society are you now trying to build upon?

Answer: We don't have any model upon which to build a new society. In the special national congress in late April 1975 we noted that the major role of carrying out the revolution and the war of national liberation was taken by the workers and peasants, who made up the majority. They have been the ones who have shouldered the heaviest responsibilities, so they must continue to reap the revolutionary gains. This has also been specified in the preamble of our constitution.

We want to build a prosperous and happy Cambodian society in which all enjoy equality and happiness--a society free from all class or individual forms of exploitation in which everyone strives to increase production and defend the country. It is on this basis that we are striving to build a new society. For this aim we are striving to build the present new society. Therefore, the trend of our new social building effort is based on the aspirations of the people, especially our workers and peasants, who represent the majority.

The people have realized that this way of building society is good and they will continue to carry on this work. If they ever decide that this way is not good, they will stop it. It is up to the people. Our experience has proved that we are entirely dependent upon the people in waging the revolution and the national liberation war.

If the people attempt a task they will certainly succeed. But, if the people do not want to do something, we cannot do anything in their place. We do not have any preconceived model or pattern of any kind for a new society. This means that we work to serve the people, as specified in the preamble of our constitution--the constitution of our Democratic Cambodia.

Question: We have seen that in the current phase of your revolution you have mobilized all national forces to develop agriculture. Do you have any plans for industrial development? If so, how are you going to train the essential cadres for this purpose? As far as we know, you have no universities, colleges or technical schools.

Answer: We have both the desire and a plan to quickly build our industry. Using agriculture as our basis, we will strive to develop our industry. In order to have an independent economy, we must develop our agriculture, industry and other sectors. Therefore, this is also our aim. However, where can we obtain the necessary capital to build the industries? We must depend on agriculture to create capital. For example, we now have trade relations with our Yugoslav comrades. We export our farm products and import the industrial goods we need for our agricultural sector and our industry as well. Our principle is to train as many technical cadres as possible as quickly as possible.

We have no universities or higher and secondary education such as existed in the past. We are now developing our technical ranks at basic levels. In the cooperatives there are several types of workshops where people are trained on the job. This sort of training is available in all factories in Phnom Penh and in the provinces as well. In this way, people work and are trained at the same time.

Prior to liberation there were a number of graduates who had been educated in Phnom Penh, in the provinces or abroad. As far as concrete results are concerned, these graduates could not serve the industrial or handicraft movements as well as the people of the present day. The technical cadres now emerging from our bases enable our people to produce more. Using this experience, we have trained technical cadres and have gradually increased their ability. They do practical work and gain experience--if they make some mistakes, they can correct them and thus improve their knowledge.

I have learned that many of you comrade journalists are familiar with Cambodia and visited here several times before liberation. During that period there were only a few Cambodian technicians; they were outnumbered by foreign technicians. That is why we are now striving to basically train Cambodian technicians. To cite concrete results: Many years were spent on the construction of a hydrologic project on the Stoeng Prek Tnot, but nothing was achieved. In 1976-1977, however, we succeeded in building five dams on the Stoeng Prek Tnot. By doing practical work we gain practical experience. We think that if we wait any longer we will never be able to give timely support to the production movement and never be able to solve the problems of the people's livelihood.

I could cite other examples. In fact, we are now capable of building our own rice husking machines, motorized pumps, rice-threshers and other kinds of motors. We make some of this mechanical equipment completely by ourselves and we have adapted some imported machines for our own purposes. In the past, this was not possible--everything was imported.

In brief, we have considered industrial matters and the training of technicians. In the future we will know how much we can improve the quality of our indigenous technicians. Meanwhile, we will follow the principle of working and learning at the same time, for all concerned will learn in this process. We also plan to send our technicians to friendly countries for training at seminars in order to develop their technological knowledge. They will attend such seminars only in friendly countries.

Question: We have witnessed that your cities today are deserted. Can you explain the goal of this operation? Why have you abolished the role of money, the system of monthly wages and the trade network? Is this a temporary trend in the social and revolutionary transformation of your society, or is it a model that you are trying to create on a long term basis?

Answer: There are many causes for the evacuation of inhabitants from Phnom Penh and other cities. First, there is the economic consideration--the question of providing food to millions or hundreds of thousands of people in each city. When we examined this problem, we saw that it was beyond our capability. It would be impossible for us to feed so many millions of townspeople. Sending them to the countryside and relocating them in cooperatives provides a good solution, as the cooperatives have ricefields and other means of production at their disposal.

We have cooperatives which are willing to have townspeople live and work with them. These cooperatives own cattle, buffalo and all other production means in common. Our strength is in the countryside; our weakness is in the cities. Therefore, it was our conclusion that we had to ask the people to go to live in the countryside to solve the food problem. If we could solve the problem of food supply, the people would gain confidence in us. Staying in the cities meant starvation. A hungry people would not believe in the revolution.

All of this is an economic reason. Besides the economic motive, there was also the problem of defending the country and maintaining national security. Before liberation, we learned about the plan of U.S. imperialism and lackeys. The latter devised a plan in case of defeat. According to this plan, after our victory and our entry into Phnom Penh, they would agitate [kraluk] against us inside the capital in all fields--economic, military and political--in an attempt to overturn our revolution. Taking this into consideration, we decided to evacuate the people from the cities and relocate them in rural cooperatives so that we could solve the food problem and smash the U.S. imperialist plan, preventing them from attacking us when we entered Phnom Penh.

Thus, this move was not preplanned. It was the realization of an imminent food shortage and a need to solve this food question, as well as the realization of a U.S. lackey plan to attack us that prompted us to evacuate the cities.

As for the question on money--the role of money, salary and the commercial system can be explained as follows: In 1970-71 we managed to liberate 75 to 80 percent of the country. In that period we had political and military power. However, we did not wield any economic power. The economy was in the hands of the landlords and the capitalists. These people received all of the products because they had the money to do so. We determined that in the liberated zone the people should sell their rice to the revolutionary administration at the rate of 30 riel per 12 kg bushel. However, the landlords and merchants offered from 100 to 200 riel for each 12 kg bushel of rice and then they resold it to Lon Nol. At that time we had nothing. The people suffered badly from the food shortage--so did the army. As a result, the national liberation war was badly affected.

After examining this situation we decided to organize and set up cooperatives. These cooperatives of the collective masses could control the economy and products in the countryside and distribute these products among cooperatives, from cooperatives to cooperatives, from cooperatives to the state and from the state to the cooperatives. In this way we could control agricultural products and solve the problem of livelihood for the people. In turn, the people could offer their sons and daughters to the service of the army for the attack against the enemy. As the cooperatives started providing support for each other, bartering with each other for their produce, the role of money became increasingly less important. In 1972 the role of money was fading out. In 1973 money lost much of its importance. In 1974 it became nonexistent in 80 percent of the liberated zone.

Only the state spent money immediately before liberation to purchase goods outside the liberated zone for the support of the liberated zone. After this experience, we polled mass opinion and were told that money was useless, as everything was traded on a barter system within the cooperatives. Therefore, in the liberated zone at the time--which represented more than 90 percent of the territory and was inhabited by almost 6 million people--we completely solved the problem. When the people left the cities they received the support of the cooperatives. This has made us cease using money up to now.

What will this matter become in the future? It is up to the people. If the people want to use money again, we will use money again. If they see that it is not necessary, it is up to them. The future will be decided by practicality. This is why we told you that we do not have any blueprint or ready-made model. It all depends on the experience of the revolutionary mass movement. We will learn from experience while that experience is being implemented.

The suspension of the wage system also has its precedent. In the successive revolutionary movements, and particularly during the national liberation war, both our cadres and combatants did not receive any wage--neither did our people. Before liberation, when we controlled 90 percent of the country, about 6 million people were accustomed to this practice. In other words, our cadres, combatants and about 6 million of our people did not receive any pay. This became a tradition. Moreover, the truth is that in the past the majority of the people did not receive any wage at all; only the functionaries did. Thus, since we acquired this habit, the people who left Phnom Penh went right into the cooperatives while the local cadres, army cadres, army combatants or workers were treated the same as they were during the war.

We hold that we must avoid causing any burden to the people and keep money mainly for financing national construction and defense. The future? The future is completely up to the concrete situation of the times and the will of the people. The commercial network is under the control of the state and the cooperatives which work together. The state collects the produce of the cooperatives and distributes it inside the country or exports it, and the state imports goods to be distributed throughout the country. So far, this method has been implemented. It is also one of our wartime traditions.

The future depends on the concrete situation. This is to say that we do not take this system as a permanent one, neither is it a transitional one. We have been acting in accordance with the concrete situation. In the future, we will also stick to the concrete situation. The determining factor is the people.

Question: As we see it, Democratic Cambodia is having all kinds of difficulties with its neighbor. What is your opinion? How can you solve these problems?

Answer: Like all other newly liberated countries, Cambodia is experiencing difficulties. This is a normal situation. Historically speaking, the difficulties being experienced by Cambodia are not as serious as those of several other newly liberated countries. Of course, there certainly are difficulties for Cambodia.

The main difficulty arises from our position of independence and following our own destiny. This has frustrated some countries, annoying the expansionists and imperialists. It is our opinion that upholding independence and self-reliance can cause difficulties, but these difficulties are not worse than those that Cambodia would have experienced if we had become another's slave, in which case there would no longer be a Cambodian nation or Cambodian people. Therefore, we are ready to preserve the position of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonalignment and self-determination forever--no matter how many obstacles we have to fight and overcome.

As for the question of how to solve these difficulties, it depends both on us and those opposing us. We have successively tried to solve issues through negotiations. Right after liberation, in June 1975 we--myself and a number of other leading comrades--went to Hanoi. We were willing to go there and express our good will to settle long-standing problems. Many problems were discussed, the border issue among them.

We held that Cambodia wanted nothing more than to live in peace, and asked that the frontier--which in 1966-67 the Vietnamese solemnly recognized and promised to respect--be the boundary between our two countries in an attempt to preserve, strengthen and expand the friendship between our nations and peoples. We did not reclaim territory. We did not ask for the return of any of our former territories, islands or even 1 square inch of land. Still, they did not even talk to us. They did not address the issue because they had the greater ambition of annexing the whole of Cambodia in the form of an Indochina federation in which their people would be settled here by the thousands and millions each year. After 30 years or more the Cambodian people would become a minority. This was clear.

In May 1976 we invited the Vietnamese for talks in Phnom Penh. They were reluctant to come. When they did come they told us that it was because we insisted. During the talks they rejected the frontier that they had recognized and promised to respect in 1966-67. They said that in 1966 they agreed with Cambodia on this point because at that time they were compelled to fight U.S. imperialism. Therefore, it was a deception. Furthermore, they proposed a new border demarcation which took away a vast part of our territorial waters.

We saw that this was sheer expansionism. No hint of friendship could be detected. They thought that they could put pressure on us because we were a small country. We did not comply. The talks were a failure. At the same time, the Vietnamese continued to use military forces to attack us in the border region and coerce us into capitulating. Again, we did not comply. How can we agree with them? It is unacceptable for us to become a slave of the Vietnamese after we made all-out efforts to fight the imperialists and their lackeys. It is unacceptable to our people and our army.

How then will we proceed to solve this issue? We are solving it in accordance with the actual situation: If the Vietnamese truly respect our sovereignty and independence, if they have true friendship, there will be no difficulty. The problem can be solved immediately. However, if they persist in seizing Cambodia we will have to defend our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, it is our opinion that these difficulties will be solved gradually. First, we will have to safeguard our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs. In order to succeed in this endeavor the entire people must unite, strive to maximize production and improve their living standard. Also, we must export more to secure more capital to finance national construction and defense.

We hold that friends of Cambodia all over the world are standing on the side of our country and that the number of these friends is steadily growing. We hold that many countries cherish independence and that some of them--Yugoslavia, to cite just one example--have a firm policy of independence. These independence-loving countries can see who is right and who is wrong, who wants peace and friendship and who is expansionist and aggressive. The independence- and justice-loving countries see this more and more clearly. As we perceive it, the trend is becoming more and more favorable to us. Those who have been acting against us should gradually realize that they can no longer carry out such aggression, expansion and annexation. Only then will we be able to solve the problem. Nevertheless, we have to continue to cope with the prevailing situation.

Question: Many articles have been written worldwide, with or without reason, to the effect that your country is too insular. Are you considering making it more open to the world? If so, what principle and direction will you follow?

Answer: Since our liberation we have gained one friend after another. After liberation there were many problems to be solved, such as rehabilitating the country and improving the people's livelihood. This is called tidying up the house, reestablishing order inside the country. As we were carrying out these tasks, we were honored by successive visits of our friends. In the future we think that a steadily increasing number will call on us. There were some in 1975; more visited us in 1976; still more in 1977; and more will visit in 1978. In years to come an increasing number of friends will visit us.

We open up to you and invite you to visit us, to come to our country. We expect that more friends will be invited and that friendship will be further strengthened and expanded with all amicable peoples and countries. Regarding the personages and organizations showing friendship and justice toward Cambodia, we have invited and will continue to invite more of them to visit our country. We believe the trend is for increasing numbers of visitors. It is nonetheless imperative for us to prepare our house and tidy it up to the best of our ability in order to receive them.

As you have observed during your journey, the war brought much destruction to our country. Many who did not know Phnom Penh before and during the war thought that the city had been spared. Right after liberation Phnom Penh did not look the way it does now. It was extremely filthy and encumbered with groups of barracks and rolls of barbed wire. Now we have removed, dismantled and cleaned up all of those things.

Question: The relations between Cambodia and Yugoslavia are manifested in friendship and cooperation. What possibility do you see in accelerating and expanding this cooperation between our two friendly countries?

Answer: Cambodia and Yugoslavia are friendly countries having a nonaligned political foundation and adhering to a policy of independence. On this basis we entertain excellent bonds of friendship with each other, strengthening and expanding all-round relations. Relations in various fields are improving according to the capabilities of our two countries. On Cambodia's part we are striving to build our nation and maximize production so as to diversify trade with Yugoslavia. We still cannot meet our Yugoslav friends' demands for commercial and agricultural products.

Taking rubber for example, we can produce a fair amount, but its quality is not yet up to standard. We will make every effort to improve the quality of our products in order to increase trade. In other fields we will continue to maintain relations in order to provide each other with as much cooperation as possible. Our opinion is that the trend of this cooperation is excellent, because not only is it based on economic and commercial exchanges, but also on good political and friendship relations.

Question: When we return to our country, we will present to our readers and TV audience the successes and the questions to which Cambodia is devoting prime attention, as well as sketches of the leaders of your friendly and nonaligned country. Therefore, let us ask you the following last question: Comrade Pol Pot, who are you? What is the past of the comrade secretary of the Central Committee of the Cambodian Communist Party?

Answer: I am happy to answer this question.

But first, let me tell you that I--as well as the other leading comrades--am just a tiny part of the Cambodian national people's revolutionary movements. The history of my life is as follows: I am the son of a peasant. When I was young I helped my parents in their labor. Later I entered a monastery, as was our custom, to receive an education. I lived there for 6 years, 2 years of which I spent as a monk. You are the first to know some of the details of my life.

When I was older I attended a primary school for general education. I finished, but failed to go on to a secondary school, as I did not take the entrance examination. At that time, in order to attend a secondary school you had to take an examination. I thus returned home and helped my parents till the land. Later, I entered secondary school and finished the first year. I then switched to a secondary electrotechnical school where I studied for a little more than 1 year. I took many technical courses, especially electricity.

After obtaining a scholarship I went abroad to study. I went to France. The first year there I made a great effort and became a fairly good student. Later, I joined the progressive student movement. As I spent most of the time on struggle activities, I did not attend many courses at school. I attended the technical school less during the last 2 years. The state then cut short my scholarship and I was forced to return home, where I secretly joined the struggle movement in Phnom Penh.

Afterwards, I joined the maquis against French colonialism. After the 1954 Geneva Agreement was signed I returned to the capital and resumed my underground activities. In public I worked as a lecturer in geography, history and morals in a private school. The sphere of my underground work included students, intellectuals, workers and peasants.

In 1963 I could no longer stay in Phnom Penh. I again went into the maquis. This is why my name was not well known. Even Lon Nol's secret service, which kept following me and knew my name, had no idea of my position. When I was in Phnom Penh I was in charge of work in the capital and coordination with the countryside. After leaving the capital in 1963, I returned on 24 April 1975.

At the national party congress in 1960 I was elected to the Central Committee as a standing member. I became the deputy secretary of the party Central Committee in 1961. Our comrade secretary was assassinated by the enemy in 1962. I was then appointed acting secretary. The second party congress was held in 1963. It elected me secretary, and subsequent congresses also kept me in this position.

In the countryside I stayed mainly in the most remote areas. I traveled far and wide throughout the country. All the years in the resistance helped me familiarize myself not only with the Cambodian countryside, but also with the country's economy, geography and topography. Our base area was in the minority region of northeastern Cambodia. These minorities are quite familiar to me. They were extremely poor and had only breechcloths. They experienced a lack of salt every year. Now you cannot recognize them as a minority. They are wearing the same clothes and living in same way as the rest of the people. They have plenty of rice, salt and medicine.

Most of all, I want to tell you about 1950, when I was a student abroad. During the summer vacation I spent more than 1 month working on the Zagreb highway. I was able to learn about the Yugoslav people and, especially, Yugoslav folklore. Therefore, you can see that we have had a longstanding bond of friendship established years ago. This is all I have to tell you.

TANJUG REPORTS ON CONDITIONS IN CAMBODIAN CAPITAL

LD211348Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croat 0133 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

["TANJUG Special Services. Dispatches From Abroad on a Visit to Phnom Penh; City Inhabitants Have Become Peasants; About 3.5 Million Cambodian City Inhabitants Are Now Agricultural Workers (by TANJUG special reporter)"]--TANJUG headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh--In the very center of the capital city of Cambodia there stands the ruins of a modern red building which one can read was the National Bank of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In the debris in front of and behind this building we noticed heavy bank safes and cash boxes which, our companions told us, the Khmer Rouge have not yet attempted to open. We believed this to be because of a lack of curiosity on the part of the few inhabitants of Phnom Penh, but the people from the Ministry of Information and Propaganda who accompanied us convinced us that this indifference towards what could well be millions lying in the safes was no more than acceptance of the principles of the new authorities, who want to resolve this country's difficulties by self-reliance.

Towns Without Life and Soul

This unarranged tour of the former treasury coffers of the Kingdom of Cambodia perhaps most symbolically illustrates the attitude of the new authorities toward everything that could remind one of the old times. From this one may draw a conclusion why millions of men, women and children sleep in dilapidated straw cottages or in hastily built huts when towns offer comfort in the totally empty, beautiful--and more than beautiful--residential buildings, villas and ordinary family houses.

The local people are not keen to speak of this moribund capital wealth, which every country in the world would like to have. Even Poi Pot, secretary of the Cambodian Communist Party [KCP] and prime minister, does not want to answer the question of when this national wealth will be given to the people. He prefers to speak of the reasoning behind the decision to evacuate the city population. This decision is as old as free and independent Cambodia, because all towns were evacuated in the first days of the liberation.

All former town inhabitants are now agricultural producers or members of mobile work brigades building the new Cambodia. This involves 3 million people--the number of inhabitants of Cambodian towns up to 17 April 1975. However, on the enormous building sites--where sometimes there are over 20,000 people per square kilometer at any given time--they cannot be distinguished from other builders. And our hosts are not always ready to make it possible for us to establish contacts, for in Cambodia all workers are now peasants.

Yet, confronted by journalistic curiosity and persistence to look closer and become acquainted with the mood of these people who work 8 to 9 hours per day in very difficult conditions--because they often do not have any technical aids at their disposal--our hosts gave in and took us to one or two former town inhabitants for an interview. We met a former student who over the past 3 years so completely had forgotten the language he had studied that an interpreter had to help us communicate with him. He said that he was happy to be taking part in a mobile work brigade which moves from building site to building site throughout the year.

Mobilization and Not Resettlement

The new authorities have on several occasions divulged the reasons for their decision to abandon the towns.

Those who saw Phnom Penh and other towns did not find it difficult to deduce that this mobilization had been quick and vigorous, because in town houses furniture, crockery and even clothes remain untouched, just as they were at the moment when the decision to abandon the towns was taken. This can best be seen in Phnom Penh where there are many houses that have not been opened since the day their inhabitants left them. Coffee cups are on the tables, clothes in the cupboards, and in garages are cars untouched since that date. Yet our hosts told us that about 200,000 inhabitants live in the capital and its surroundings, and there is no reason to doubt that statement.

However, with the exception of a few buildings taken by foreign diplomats or foreign experts, the passers-by in the busiest boulevards in the center of the town within an hour can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Even when an inhabitant is seen now and again he turns out to be a member of a work brigade responsible for town maintenance. Insofar as the maintenance of the streets, parks and even the facades of abandoned buildings is concerned, these people are invariably members of work brigades who, as far as we were able to see, do not live in the center of the town but come here every morning from the suburbs.

The only people here are those responsible for city security, who cannot be seen by day, but whose presence can be felt at night. However, they too avoid living in modern air-conditioned city buildings or in buildings with rusted refrigerators. They live in the adjoining courtyards of these same buildings. It is due to them that former parks have become plantations of coconuts and other tropical trees, while cabbages are sometimes grown in flowerpots.

Water and electricity are available only on the streets where traffic leads into the town from the airport or on streets in the areas with accommodations for foreign guests and diplomats. When night falls Phnom Penh does not look like a capital of a country even to those who live in these lit up parts of the city.

The entire life of this town which once had half a million inhabitants, and which during the war was a city of 1 million, goes on in four premises marked specifically for that purpose: The "Friendship Cinema" which opens its doors only when a foreign statesman arrives, the "Hostel" for guests, where official diplomatic dinners are given, the theater and the diplomatic club. Even big ministry buildings do not have anything inside that would give away their function because the officials in them can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

They too have to work and be educated through labor. Fruit and the vegetable plots were being cultivated by officials from the ministries. These were the very people we asked if the policy of abandoning towns is a long-term or a passing stage of the Cambodian revolution, but we could not conclude from their replies whether it is the former or the latter. If it was an imperative decision dictated by temporary conditions which could jeopardize the achievements of the liberation victory, then the task of shifting the center of gravity from the towns into Cambodian villages has been carried to completion.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

BK220724Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 2 Mar 78 BK

[Democratic Cambodian Foreign Ministry spokesman 21 March statement condemning Israel's invasion of Lebanon]

[Text] On the night of 14 March 1978, the armed forces of the Israeli Zionists, totaling about 30,000 men and accompanied by many tanks and supported by aircraft, launched a preplanned, large-scale and systematic invasion deep into the territory of the Republic of Lebanon. Their artillery pounded a number of towns in southern Lebanon, while their

warships concentrated on shelling off the Lebanese coast. The Israeli forces have been butchering the Lebanese people and Palestinian people residing in southern Lebanon. They have destroyed and put to the torch the property of the Lebanese state and people and of the Palestinian people.

The Government of Democratic Cambodia vigorously condemns the Israeli Zionists for committing savage crimes and gross violations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Lebanon, which is a nonaligned country. This aggression once again shows clearly their role as an instrument of aggression in the Middle East and also lays bare their greedy, expansionist nature, emboldened by their modern war equipment and brute strength.

The people and Government of Democratic Cambodia, now engaged in a struggle to surmount all obstacles in order to always maintain the initiative in the effort to defend and preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and to protect the nonaligned policy of Cambodia, vigorously support the struggle of the Lebanese people and government for the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

We once again express support for the just struggle that the Palestinian people are waging under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization for the sake of their sacred national rights.

The Palestinian problem is the key Middle East question, which can be solved only after the Palestinian people have achieved their national rights--specifically the rights to live in their own fatherland, manage their own destiny and set up their own independent state on their own land.

The people and Government of Democratic Cambodia reiterate their support for the struggle waged by the Arab countries to win back Arab territories seized and occupied through the use of arms by the Israeli Zionists more than 10 years ago. We firmly believe that through the resolute, persistent common struggle--waged in unity by all Arab peoples, with the assistance and support of the peoples of nonaligned and Third World countries and of people who love independence and justice throughout the world--the Lebanese and Palestinians, as well as other Arab peoples, will surely realize their just and sacred cause.

BRIEFS

DAMBE DISTRICT PLAN--Since our valiant Revolutionary Army drove all the expansionist, annexationist aggressor Vietnamese out of their district, the cooperative peasants in Dambe district, 1st sector, eastern region, under the correct and wise leadership of the KCP, have jointly striven to rebuild their district by constructing more dams, canals and ditches to solve the water conservancy problem and facilitate rice cultivation. Moreover, the peasants in this district have grown a dry season rice crop on every field, big and small, without delay. They have also irrigated fields, and cared for the crops, using fertilizer and spraying insecticide. With such care they will be able to achieve a good yield and fulfill and even overfulfill the rice production plan this year.
[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK]

LPRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE 23D ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

BK220320Y Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text of LPRP Central Committee appeal marking the 22 March 23d founding anniversary of the party]

[Text] Beloved cadres and party members, beloved compatriots: Our party is 23 years old today. On the occasion of this important, historic day of the party, we would like to extend our warm salutations and profound love and solidarity to all comrade cadres and party members and all compatriots throughout the country who are transforming and building socialism in the country. We would like to convey our best regards to all ailing comrades who are receiving medical treatment. We wish to express deep mourning for all comrade heroes who have sacrificed their lives for the revolution and for the nation.

Beloved comrades and compatriots: Over the past 2 years, pursuing the fine tradition of the Indochinese Communist Party, our party has implemented the very heavy, but very glorious and honorable task and responsibility of leading the Lao people of various nationalities in carrying out the socialist revolution in a new stage of revolution in our country. With our party's correct line, we have organized and mobilized the masses to move forward to the battlefield to settle the question of who is winning over whom in the fierce struggle between capitalism and socialism.

Since our country is stationed in an outpost of the socialist camp, the imperialists and reactionaries have recently concentrated their efforts to sabotage our revolution. They have resorted to vicious, all-round tricks under many forms and in all fields--political, military, economic, cultural, social and foreign affairs--to restrict and obstruct the development of the revolution in our country with the hope of weakening, deteriorating and finally overthrowing our regime. But, our party and people, upholding the patriotic spirit and the spirit of cherishing socialism, have systematically defeated their various cruel schemes. We have not only smashed the various schemes of the enemy and defended the country but also carried out the transformation and building of socialism, thereby achieving many successes.

Enhancing the spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, our people, both in the rural and urban areas, have joined in heroically marching forward to the agricultural battlefield. As everyone is aware, our country suffered a disastrous drought last year. But, with the support of various production unity boosting units, labor-exchange units, cooperatives and other unity organizations under other peasant forms, combined with the movement to set up irrigation systems to carry water from marshes, canals or rivers to paddyfields, we have achieved considerable success in combating drought. Fallow land has been restored, while wasteland has been reclaimed in many localities. People in many localities have been mobilized to plant maize, cassava, taro, yams and other starchy crops in order to recover from losses caused by the drought. In addition, dry season rice farming has been considerably expanded. Through these movements on the agricultural battlefield we have achieved considerable success in restricting drought-related losses.

Our people have come to clearly understand the fine true nature of the new regime and to be confident in their own strength and in their ability to earn their living in an organized way. This is a new situation for our people. In the past year our workers have continued to promote and expand the spirit of revolutionary enthusiasm and the spirit of collective mastery in various factories and plants. They have continued to maintain the normal operations of various factories and plants while effectively carrying out forest exploitation, thereby contributing to support of the agricultural branch, development of the national economy, and improvement of living conditions for workers and people.

Intellectuals of all branches of work have positively complied with the party appeal in promoting and expanding the rights of collective mastership and in contributing to progress in agriculture, irrigation, education, culture, public health and other branches. Cadres and combatants in various national defense forces and in various peace-keeping forces have upheld the spirit of revolutionary heroism and suppressed reactionaries who have created disturbances in some areas, thus making an important contribution to the defense of the country and the peaceful construction of our people. Learned persons, monks and novices, students and schoolchildren, industrialists, traders and businessmen have also scored many achievements in implementing the line and policies of our party and plans of our state. Aliens have also positively complied with laws of the state and policies of the party and made positive contributions to the building of the LPDR.

Over the past year of socialist transformation and socialist construction in our country, it is obvious we have scored more new achievements, resulting in the consolidation of our people's democratic administration, strengthening of our revolutionary position and forces, and maintenance of the security of the new regime. This has contributed to safeguarding and expanding the world socialist system and strengthening the struggle movements for national independence, democracy and peace in the world.

Judging from our achievements, it is apparent that, though encountering numerous difficulties and obstacles, by firmly grasping the fundamental principle of Marxism-Leninism and relying on and learning from the lessons of the fraternal socialist countries, our party is able to adopt a correct and appropriate line for our country.

Our party has grown stronger and bigger in all respects, especially with regard to internal unity and unification from the party central level down to party grassroots organizations. Party cadres and members have also grown stronger and come to more firmly grasp proletarian attitudes and principles. We are very proud of our party which is the organizer and leader of all the victories of the Lao revolution.

On this occasion we would like to wholeheartedly hail all party cadres and members and state employees in all branches of work for resolutely holding aloft the revolutionary spirit, actively implementing the line, policies and resolutions of the party, and acting as a model for the masses. We would like to wholeheartedly hail our people of all nationalities, workers, peasants, intellectuals, learned persons, Buddhist bonzes and novices, pupils, students, industrialists, businessmen and alien residents for responding to the call of the party in transforming and building socialism, thereby guiding our LPDR to rapidly advance along the path of social progress. We would like to wholeheartedly hail the LPLA--the strong pillar of the Lao revolution--for consistently acting as the sharp tool of the party and for cherishing the tradition of revolutionary heroism.

We would like to express our profound thanks to the VCP and Vietnamese people, the KCP and Cambodian people, the CPSU and Soviet people, the CCP and Chinese people, and other fraternal parties and friends for rendering strong support and effective assistance to the Lao revolution.

Comrades and compatriots: Even though we have encountered numerous difficulties in carrying out the tasks of transforming and building socialism in our country, caused by the destructive sabotage activities of both internal and external enemies and because our economy is based on small-scale production and the cultural standard of our people remains very low, basically speaking, prevailing conditions both at home and abroad are favorable for our revolution. In the immediate future we must employ socialist production relations in systematically preparing favorable conditions for our national economy.

In the meantime, we must expand production forces, build the economic foundation for our new society, insure the strengthening of the proletarian dictatorship, and implement the mastership of the working people in all movements. In addition, we must strive to consolidate the administration, increase the strength of national defense and the people's peacekeeping forces, and continue to maintain a peaceful political situation.

Thus, on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of the party founding, we call on all party cadres and members, state employees, workers, peasants, intellectuals, learned persons, Buddhist bonzes and novices, pupils, students, industrialists, businessmen and alien residents in Laos to increase the unity of all the people in order to carry out the following tasks:

Concentrate efforts to take good care of dry land rice and starchy crops and make adequate preparations for growing bumper rice-crops for excellent production; actively expand handicrafts; increase timber production and exploitation of forest products; quantitatively increase industrial production; quickly expand state trade, and, at the same time, transform private trade enterprises; expand goods circulation between the state and peasants and between urban areas and the countryside; step up management and use of foreign assistance; effectively organize external trade; persist in improving the people's living conditions step-by-step; readjust and improve the marketing and monetary situation; strive to build irrigation facilities; build a transport route to the sea through Vietnamese territory as well as a number of roads; establish a number of industrial enterprises; develop technical and material foundations for educational, cultural and public health work; stress the importance of building foundations for the local economy; actively pay attention to work aimed at stamping out illiteracy and carrying out cultural training, supplementary education, training and building of cadres and workers, and cultural and public health work by more vigorously guiding these branches of work toward socialism; effectively coordinate economic and cultural development with national defense and peacekeeping; continue to consolidate and strengthen the administration; and continue to seek international support and assistance.

To fulfill the aforementioned goals, party cadres and members, state employees and people must thoroughly and clearly understand the significance of such tasks. We must first appreciate the line and policies of the party and know how to correctly apply these to conditions in each work branch, unit or locality. We must also enhance the spirit of fighting endurance and revolutionary perseverance. At the same time, we must maintain revolutionary vigilance in all fields at all times. We must thoroughly understand the enemies of our people and the enemies of socialism in our country. Moreover, we must clearly know who are our friends and who are our enemies.

We must clearly define what is revolutionary and what is counterrevolutionary; especially our party cadres and members, be they civilian or in the armed forces. They must promote fine revolutionary traditions, consolidate the attitudes and principles of the working classes, study and grasp the true nature of the revolution, increase unity within the party, develop a good relationship with the people, rectify our weak points and shortcomings in implementing the line and policies of the party and state, and fulfill the people's trust and faith in the party and state.

Comrades and compatriots: For the past more than 23 years, our party has led the revolution in our country. In playing such a leadership role, our party has grown stronger and bigger, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The unity and unification of the party, which is a fine tradition of the party, has been clearly displayed. The leadership line of our party is correct. That is why our party has been able to lead the Lao revolution to its present progressive stand.

Such developments clearly show our party's faith and loyalty to Marxism-Leninism, the revolution in our country and the world revolution. Our party has faithfully and enthusiastically carried out the tasks entrusted by history. Under the wise and clear-sighted leadership of our party, the Lao people of all nationalities have become the genuine masters of their own country.

In the past 2 years the Lao people have turned their wartime heroic traditions into those of peacetime. Our people are genuinely heroic and valorous and are making their own history. Our people were, are and will be strong forces in guiding the socialist revolution in our country to rapidly advance. No enemies, obstacles nor difficulties will be able to obstruct or destroy our revolution. The socialist revolution in our country is just. All of the socialist countries, friendly countries, and peace-loving people have given support and assistance to our revolution. All of these factors have contributed to the victories of the socialist revolution in our country. The final victory will certainly belong to our people.

To safeguard and defend our country, to build socialism, and for the happiness and prosperity of the Lao people, let all of us march forward!

Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism!

Long live the LPRP--the organizer and leader of all the victories of the Lao revolution!

[Signed] The LPRP Central Committee

SIANG PASASON Editorial

BK220710Y Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[SIANG PASASON 22 March editorial: "Step Up the Consolidation and Building of the Party to Mark the 23d Anniversary of the LPRP Founding"]

[Text] Today is the 23d founding anniversary of our beloved and respected LPRP. We celebrate the founding anniversary of our LPRP this year at a time when our entire party, army and people are marching forward to enthusiastically implement the tasks for 1978--the first year of the 3-year plan--to spur on the task of transforming and building socialism in our country, to march forward to achieve yet greater, all-round and firm successes. The LPRP is the vanguard unit of the Lao working class. It is a party which has pursued the great task of the Indochinese Communist Party. It is a product of the combination of Marxism-Leninism, patriotic movements and movements of young workers in our country.

The survival, growth and strength of our party have always been closely related to the destinies of our nation and people. Since its founding, the LPRP, which is the vanguard unit of the Lao revolution, although it is still young and has faced serious difficulties and obstacles, has promoted and expanded its role by taking the offensive in mobilizing, persuading, organizing and guiding the people in a very clear-sighted manner.

Our party itself is full of the blood of revolutionary heroism and the lofty spirit of sacrifice of the heroic Lao nation. Our party has firmly grasped and creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the practical conditions of our Lao revolution. It has led our entire Lao people to successfully battle through the red storm of the protracted war of resistance in the historic period of the national salvation struggle against the enemy aggressors. It is now guiding our people of various nationalities throughout the country to honorably march forward and carry out socialist revolution.

In the period before the emphasis on the building of socialism, our party led the entire Lao people in uniting around the party-led Lao Patriotic Front and in carrying out the protracted national salvation struggle thereby overthrowing the monarchy--the tool of neocolonialism--and majestically establishing the popular democratic republic system on 2 December 1975.

Over the past 2 years, under the leadership of the LPRP, we have achieved great, basic and all-round successes in carrying out the revolutionary task of our country. Our revolutionary task is now developing with firm steps. Many new factors have been created to help settle the question of who is winning in the struggle between the two lines--socialism and capitalism--in our country, which is developing in all respects and which is at a strategic turning point.

Our party has maintained its high determination to win a victory for socialism in this first step. It has also systematically maintained balanced production relations in a strong national economy. At the same time, it has developed the production force as a basis of the socialist economy to guarantee the increased effectiveness of a democratic state under the party's leadership, implemented the laboring people's right of collective mastery, and successfully and simultaneously carried out the three revolutions with the aim of stamping out poverty and backwardness, building a new economy, new culture and new socialist men, and developing relations based on international socialist solidarity.

Following our recent successes in carrying out the mobilization campaigns under party leadership, the party contingent has been further strengthened while the class and vanguard nature of the party's struggle have been further enhanced. As a result, the party has successfully fulfilled its historic task.

However, our party has now taken over power throughout the country. The present political duty of our party is to lead the country in the march toward socialism and build a new system, new economy, new culture and new society. This is a fierce, complicated and undaunted class struggle. Therefore, it is necessary to improve party leadership in all sectors of work in order to successfully implement the fifth resolution of the party Central Committee. For example, it is necessary to mobilize to initiate emulation campaigns in building all-round leading party units.

The leadership ability of the party must be increasingly raised to a higher level in order to solve decisive problems. First and foremost, it is necessary to raise the level of the all-round capabilities of party units. This is a mobilization campaign of very profound and tremendous significance. This is because it is a campaign which opens the initial stage of the building of the party in order to advance toward socialism in our country. It is also a notable campaign which commemorates the 23d founding anniversary of our beloved and respected party.

We have achieved great successes in carrying out our revolution. However, the final goal of our party is to successfully build socialism and then march forward to build a communist society which is the finest in human society. Therefore, we must promote and expand our spirit of revolutionary perseverance and increase our knowledge and capabilities daily so that we can reach the peak of prosperity.

Under the honorable, glorious banner of the party, our communists are very elated at our contribution to the national liberation cause. However, it is still necessary for us to continue to persistently carry out struggle and take part in the socialist construction tasks under the slogans: Everything for the defense of the country and socialist construction; everything for the prosperity and happiness of the people of various nationalities.

We must always maintain the party's fine traditions and true nature, concentrate on engaging in labor, work efficiently, pay attention to study and strive to advance forward to deserve to be called communists, who must always train and temper themselves unconditionally for the victory of revolution, be concerned about the daily life of the people, and genuinely guide and serve the people.

Our party has developed and strengthened as it is today because it is composed of members who do not think of their own interests, rank and dignity, and who have been always loyal, fair, diligent, persevering and heroic.

Let us march forward in unity to successfully achieve the goals of the tasks for 1978 as stipulated in the fifth resolution of the party Central Committee to welcome the 24th founding anniversary of the party in 1979.

AUTHORITIES BAN FOREIGNERS FROM TRAVELING BY LAND TO THAILAND

BK211204Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Bangkok, 21 Mar (AFP)--Lao authorities have applied new restrictions to the freedom of movement of foreign diplomats, it was learned at Nong Khai on the Thai border 20 km (11 miles) from Vientiane this evening.

A Lao Foreign Ministry circular has banned diplomats, and all foreign travelers from leaving Laos by land routes. They must take the twice-weekly air service which links Laos and Thailand.

Up until now, many travelers daily crossed the Mekong River which marks the frontier between Thailand and Laos, and then took the train to Bangkok from Nong Khai. This is no longer permitted.

The new measure to restrict freedom of movement comes after a recent instruction forbidding embassy and United Nations personnel to go beyond the boundaries of the capital. The move is the result of official nervousness as security worsens each day even on the fringes of the capital, informed sources said.

The several thousand Meo (Mong) rebels who are fleeing government security forces actions against them, pass south of Vientiane as they try to make their way to the Mekong River and Thailand.

Every night groups of 50 to 100 Meos succeed in crossing the river despite heavy firing from Pathet Lao patrols. The virtual closing of the border will enable the authorities to tighten up controls, observers noted.

SIPASEUT HEADS GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO THAILAND

BK220556V Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0505 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text] In response to an invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, a delegation of the LPDR Government headed by His Excellency Phoun Sipaseut, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, left Vientiane by a special Air Lao plane this morning for an official, friendly visit to Thailand.

The delegation includes Singkapo Sikhotchounlamani, vice minister of communications, public works and transportation; Souban Sitthilat, chief of the office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Vanthong Sengmuang, Lao ambassador to Bangkok; Sisanan Sengnanouvong, director general of the Information Department of the Propaganda Ministry; (Kham Louat Sitlakon), director general of the Statistics, Planning and Finance Department of the Ministry of Communications, Public Works and Transportation; (Thongsou Phounsavan), director general of the Trade and Prices Department of the Industry and Commerce Ministry; (Sali Khamssi), deputy director general of the Consular Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; (Khamphan Simmalavong), trade adviser; and a number of other companions.

The delegation was seen off at Wattai Airport by Nouhak Phoumsavan, vice premier and minister of finance; Maisouk Saisompheng, minister of industry and commerce; Khampheng Boupha, minister of posts and telecommunications; Khamphai Boupha and Noupnan Sitphasai, vice ministers of foreign affairs; and a number of high-ranking cadres from various ministries concerned.

Also seeing the delegation off at the airport were Sombun Rotchanthanakon, charge d'affaires a.i. of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, and members of the diplomatic corps in Laos.

SIPHANDON CONGRATULATES MONGOLIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

BK180931V Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 18 Mar (KPL)--Khamtai Siphandon, vice premier, minister of national defence and commander in chief of the Lao People's Liberation Army [LPLA] yesterday sent a message to General B. Dorj, minister of defence of the Mongolian People's Republic, greeting the 57th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army [MPA] today.

The message said: "On the 57th founding anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army, on behalf of all the officers and soldiers of the Lao People's Liberation Army, I would like to convey our warm congratulations and greetings of friendship and militant solidarity to you and, through you, to all officers and soldiers of the fraternal Mongolian People's Army.

"Over the past 57 years under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the MPA has, through its valiant and victorious fights, become a powerful modern army, serving as the backbone of the revolution and the socialist construction in the Mongolian People's Republic. It has firmly defended the national independence and security of the Mongolian people, thus contributing to the safeguarding of peace and security in the socialist countries and in the world as a whole.

"The LPLA greatly rejoices at the victories and powerful growth of the MPA and considers them as its own. "It is the pride and belief of the LPLA that the friendly cooperation, militant solidarity and mutual assistance between the armies and peoples of Laos and Mongolia in the cause of socialist construction will develop further.

"On this glorious occasion, I wish you good health and the MPA still greater successes in defending and building socialism in the Mongolian People's Republic."

SIANG PASASON CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAIDS INTO LEBANON

BK200933Y Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 20 Mar (KPL)--"Israel's new aggressive acts in south Lebanon are part of its expansionist scheme supported by the U.S. imperialists," says SIANG PASASON in a commentary today.

The paper recalls that since early February, Israel has deployed more troops, including two infantry regiments from Tel Aviv, to areas along the Israel-Lebanon border and that Israeli troops, supported by tanks, have committed acts of provocation against south Lebanon.

"To cover their aggressive acts," the paper says "the Begin clique declared that its attacks on Lebanon this time were aimed to counter the Palestinian forces' recent attacks north of Tel Aviv."

"However," the paper goes on, "world people know that following the unsuccessful Tel Aviv-Cairo talks, the Zionist expansionists, assisted by the U.S. imperialists, have stepped up preparations for war while unceasingly slandering the Palestinian resistance forces."

After dealing with the victories recorded by the Palestinian resistance forces and the Lebanese left-wing forces over the Israeli aggressors, the paper says: "The Lebanese and Palestinian people's fight against Israeli aggression has enjoyed broad support from the Arab people and the world's people as a whole. The Israeli aggressors have become ever more isolated. Their aggressive acts have only further tightened the solidarity among the Arab people."

The paper goes on: "The Lao people always support the just struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and demand that Israel immediately stop the aggressive acts, withdraw all its troops from the Arab territories it has occupied and let the Palestinian people establish an independent state in their homeland."

The paper expresses the belief that the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, and the Lebanese people, under the leadership of the left-wing forces, will completely defeat the Israeli aggressors and that the Palestinian people's just cause will win complete victory.

YOUTH DELEGATIONS RETURN FROM VISITS TO GDR, CUBA

BK160432Y Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] After paying an official visit to the GDR at the invitation of the Central Council of the Free German Youth, a delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU] headed by Maichantan Sengmani, member of the LPRP Central Committee, minister attached to the premier's office and chairman of the national LPRYU Executive Committee, left Berlin for Vientiane and arrived home on 14 March.

A second LPRYU delegation headed by Somsanit Khambai, vice chairman of the national LPRYU Central Committee, also arrived in Vientiane from Berlin the same day after attending the 10th assembly meeting of the International Democratic Youth Organization and a meeting of the preparatory committee of the Grand International Youth and Student Conference, scheduled to be held in Havana in mid-July. On hand to welcome the two delegations at Wattai Airport were Ms (Hinsila), member of the national LPRYU Central Committee and a large number of LPRYU members.

BRIEFS

WOMEN CADRE CONFERENCE--Vientiane, 20 Mar (KPL)--A meeting of cadres at different levels of the Lao Patriotic Women's Union was held from January 31 to March 18 in Vientiane. More than 80 delegations from the centre, cities and provinces attended the meeting which was presided over by Mrs Khampheng Boupha, member of the LPRP Central Committee and president of the union. Sal, Vongkhamso and Chani Douangboudi, members of the party Central Committee and ministers at the premier's office, attended the opening session. At the meeting, the delegates studied the resolutions of the fourth plenum of the party Central Committee, Lenin's works on liberation of women and other political documents. In her closing speech, Mrs Khampheng Boupha highly appreciated the results of the meeting which, she said, helped heighten the political consciousness of Lao women and step up their activities. [Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK]

VANGHE RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION--Vientiane, 20 Mar (KPL)--Since early this month, more than 3,300 people in Pathoumphon, Bakiang, Chaleunsouk, Pakse, Sanasomboun, Phonthong and Champassak districts of Champassak Province have taken part in the construction of the Vanghe Reservoir at Phonthong. This medium-sized irrigation project will water 7,000 hectares of winter rice and from 3,000 to 4,000 hectares of summer rice and subsidiary crops. [Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK]

LAOTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIPASEUT ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

BK220614Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text] At 1120 today, Phoun Sipaseut, vice premier and foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and party arrived at Don Muang Airport of the Royal Thai Air Force headquarters to begin their 3-day official visit to Thailand as guests of the Thai Government.

On hand to welcome the LPDR vice premier and foreign minister were Deputy Prime Minister Sunthon Hongladarom, Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun, Deputy Foreign Minister Wong Phonnikhon and other officials concerned. The LPDR vice premier and foreign minister was later taken to the air force headquarter's reception hall.

At 1140, Deputy Prime Minister Sunthon Hongladarom accompanied the LPDR vice premier and foreign minister to the Oriental Hotel where the latter will stay during his official visit.

The LPDR Vice premier and foreign minister and official and unofficial entourage of 16 will stay in Thailand from 22 to 25 March.

The LPDR vice premier and foreign minister will have an audience with his majesty the king at Chitlada Palace at 1600 today.

At 1430, the LPDR vice premier and foreign minister will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Kriangsak Chamanan, Deputy Prime Minister Sunthon Hongladarom and Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun at Government House.

The LPDR vice premier and foreign minister is scheduled to hold official talks with the Thai foreign minister at the Foreign Ministry at 0900 tomorrow.

On 24 March, the LPDR vice premier and foreign minister will go to Phatthaya, Chonburi Province, to visit the Bangkok animal feed company and a chicken-raising village in Siracha District. At 1730 the same day, he will grant a press conference at the Oriental Hotel.

The LPDR vice premier and foreign minister and his party are scheduled to leave Bangkok at 1920 on 25 March and return home.

Arrival Statement

BK220600Y Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0510 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[LPDR Vice Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut 22 March statement upon arrival at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok--read by announcer]

[Text] I have the great honor and am very happy to lead the first LPDR Government delegation to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Thai Government for extending a warm welcome to me and my party. On this occasion, I would also like to convey the sincere greetings and affection of the Lao people to the fraternal Thai people. In implementing the 3 August 1976 joint Laos-Thailand communique, I am very proud to see that at present Lao-Thai relations have made new steps in improving mutual understanding between the governments and peoples of our two countries. Therefore, amid this friendly atmosphere and good initiative, I hope that our friendly visit to the Kingdom of Thailand will contribute to more profoundly and extensively strengthening the good-neighborly friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

It is true there are still many problems to be resolved bilaterally regarding Lao-Thai relations in response to the desires of the peoples of the two countries and in the interests of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the world. Our Lao delegation will try in every way to smoothly resolve these problems. We hope the Thai side has a similar desire and will cooperate with us in order to gradually normalize and expand Lao-Thai relations based on respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, order to resolve any misunderstanding through peaceful means and on the basis of equality and mutual interest.

VOPT RADIO CLAIMS GOVERNMENT IS AIDING KHMER SEREI

BK151010Y Voice of the People of Thailand [Clandestine] in Thai to Thailand 1000 GMT
14 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Warlord Kriangsak recently denied the report that his clique has been supporting the Khmer Serei forces now causing trouble along the Thai-Cambodian border. However, the fact is that the so-called Cambodian refugee camps or centers built in Aranyaprathet District of Prachin Buri Province and other places at the order of the U.S. imperialists and under the pretext of humanitarianism are indeed operational bases for the Khmer Serei forces.

A magazine recently reported that the Khmer Serei movement, or the so-called "Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces" [Kong Kamlang Serikan Chat Khamen], was established on 15 April 1976 at a meeting of a number of former military officers and civil servants of the defunct Lon Nol government at the residence of a refugee named (Pram), alias (Chhuon Kiet), in Aranyaprathet District. The meeting resulted in the appointment of Colonel [name indistinct] as commander of the armed forces and (Kam Toykoy), (Dang Vangput), (Supha), (Mon), (Krung Samrit) and (Ta Kuong) as his six deputies. These deputies are responsible for operations in different areas along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The magazine quoted Miss (Ang Sokphan), a third year pharmaceutical student of Phnom Penh University who was working as an assistant to UN officials at Aranyaprathet refugee camp, as saying in a recorded interview that most of the Khmer Serei live in refugee camps. Thai authorities have used them to gather information in Cambodia, and a group of about 200 or 300 is recruited each time for such service. Moreover, rich Cambodian refugees have hired the Khmer Serei guerrillas to bring their relatives in Battambang and Sisophon to Thailand. But the Khmer Serei guerrillas kill any of them who are found carrying valuables during the escape near the Thai border and return and inform the refugees that their relatives were killed by the Khmer Rouge.

Miss (Ang Sokphan) also disclosed that Major Colonel (Sambo), a Khmer Serei guerrilla leader who has fought several battles in Cambodia, used to receive orders from Major General Tiep Ben to attend meetings in Bangkok.

Police Major General Chana Smatthawanit, former governor of Prachin Buri and former Thai ambassador to Cambodia, who has extensive knowledge about the Khmer Serei, has said in an interview that the Cambodian refugees in Aranyaprathet have frequently joined the dissident Cambodian forces to rob and kill Cambodians inside Cambodia. He said the Thai Government must not allow these Cambodians to use Thailand as their operational base or hideout, because this is against international law and agreements and can jeopardize national stability and drag Thailand into war. However, the Kriangsak government is still trying to secretly give aid.

POST PRAISES AUSTRALIA FOR AIDING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

BK220137Y Bangkok POST in English 22 Mar 78 p 6 BK

[Editorial: "Laudable Example Indeed"]

[Text] Full marks to the Australian Government for all that it is now doing to assist the plight of refugees. For many years Australia has been accused of side-stepping its international responsibilities in this area, the criticism being voiced most strongly by those who were resentful of the country's somewhat unbending attitude towards immigration.

It can no longer be suggested, in view of announcements within the last week in Canberra, that the Aussies are leaving the refugee burden to be borne by others. Indeed, they would appear to be setting the pace in some respects. Foreign Affairs Minister Andrew Peacock has announced an immediate cash grant equal to about 29.9 million baht to help the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to cope with the Indochinese refugee problem.

Only a couple of days before, Mr Peacock's cabinet colleague, the minister for immigration and ethnic affairs, made it known that Australia is to increase its refugee intake by a further 2,000, bringing the total of refugees that Australia will have accepted by the end of June this year to the very respectable figure of 9,000.

Australia thus sets an example for other governments to follow. Thailand cannot by itself bear the burden of looking after the 100,000 refugees from the Indochina countries for any great length of time. Many countries, both developed and developing, should consider sharing the burden.

CIVIL AVIATION TALKS WITH INDONESIA TO BE HELD IN APRIL

BK220201Y Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 22 Mar 78 p 6 BK

[Text] Communications ministries of Thailand and Indonesia will meet next month to settle the conflicts between their respective national flag carriers, vice president of corporate planning and international relations of Thai Airways International (THAI), Mr Nikon Mainiloet, said yesterday.

Mr Nikon said that Indonesian authorities were not satisfied that THAI operates DC-8 on Bangkok-Singapore-Jakarta and also to Denpasar--the second point in Indonesia.

Moreover, THAI recently expressed its wish to use Airbus 300 to operate on this route instead of DC-8 which further disappointed Indonesian national flag carrier Garuda.

However, he confirmed that the stoppage of Garuda landing to Bangkok was purely for commercial reason though this stoppage--either temporary or permanent--would later strengthen Indonesian bargaining power in the negotiation.

Without prior notice, Garuda early this month announced that it would stop landing at Bangkok starting from April for "commercial" reason.

Should there be no Indonesian airline landing here, the Indonesia Government would be in a better position to retaliate against Thailand's carrier on the operation to its country and it may designate another international airline to operate instead, said Mr Nikon.

NATION REVIEW REPORTS SOVIET SURVEY OF ASEAN WATERS

BK210219Y Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 21 Mar 78 p 3 BK

[Text] The Commercial Navy Ministry of the Soviet Union recently sent officials here to conduct a survey of the Thai seas and also on marine territories of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in an attempt to expand its commercial marine transportation.

According to a member of the Board of Trade of Thailand Phinit Linawat, the Russian team surveyed in the Thai seas after completing similar works in Singapore and Malaysia.

He said that the expansion of Russian commercial marine transportation would help reduce the transport cost from the Mediterranean coast to Thailand using a new system of transporting technique.

Explaining the new technique, Mr Phinit said that the cargoes would be loaded onto small boats which will be towed along-side the huge vessels from where they would be lifted on board--both small vessel and cargo.

He further explained that this technique had been used for the transportation of cargo around the Danube River and Mediterranean Sea and it is expected that it would be introduced among ASEAN countries by 1980.

"This new technique will help reduce transportation cost, save time and is very convenient," said Mr Phinit, adding that the damage during loading and unloading would also be less.

ISOC REPORTS END OF BORDER EXERCISE WITH MALAYSIA

BK181428Y Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Col Somsak Intharaphon, a representative of the Internal Security Operation Command [ISOC], recently revealed that a Thai-Malaysian joint border exercise took place from 10 to 15 March at Tambon Don Hoi Khong, Hat Yai District, Songkhla.

This exercise was aimed at testing rules and regulations specified by the General Border Committee, as well as the process of communications between the officials of the two countries. The exercise was also aimed at improving efficiency for the coming operations of the Thai-Malaysian combined task forces.

All [words indistinct] of the previous two joint operations with the codename Dao Yai-Mushna [big star] and Cahaya Bena [sacred ray] according to Col Somsak, had been brought up for analysis and assessment.

VICTIMS OF 16 MARCH ATTACK CITE CAMBODIAN TROOPS' CRUELTY

BK211050Y Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[Song Be provincial radio correspondent's report on 17 March interview with survivors of 16 March Cambodian attack on Bu Dop area--portions recorded]

[Text] Disregarding the protests of public opinion and the world's good counsel on Vietnamese-Cambodian relations, at 0400 on 16 March the Cambodian armed forces blatantly intruded deep into our national territory, entering Bu Dop area in the border district of Loc Ninh, Song Be Province--more than 10 km from the Cambodian border. They committed barbarous crimes, burning houses, destroying orchards and ricefields, raping women and killing or wounding more than 300 of our compatriots, most of them elderly persons, women and children.

Our radio correspondent talked with 22 of the hundreds who fell victim to these crimes. Most were wounded in the head, neck, face, arms and legs by bullets of various calibers and Cambodian artillery shrapnel. Many were writhing in pain in their sickbeds. Some had severe burns on their backs. A 6-year-old child had been knocked unconscious by a Cambodian soldier. A 2-year-old child had been shot through the thigh and foot. A family of six lost five killed, and the lone survivor was knocked unconscious with a spade.

Doan Ngoc Chuong of Sa Trach hamlet lay next to his 2-year-old daughter, Doan Thi Ngoc Minh, who was still in a coma from a broken leg. Both he and his daughter were wounded all over the body. Speaking into our recorder, Chuong said:

[begin recording] I am Doan Ngoc Chuong, 30, of Sa Trach hamlet, Bu Dop.

[Question] Describe how the Cambodian soldiers massacred our people in your hamlet that day?

[Answer] Shortly after 0400 I was awakened by the sound of gunfire. I ran out of my house and saw to my horror some Cambodian soldiers setting fire to the house next door. They then burned my house. My family and the one next door, totaling nine persons, rushed into a dugout shelter where we were fired upon by the raiders. Five were killed and the remaining four wounded--two slightly and two seriously. The Cambodian soldiers are very cruel. I got out of the shelter after the shooting and found that many other families in my hamlet had been massacred. This is a towering crime!

[Question] Is this your daughter? Why is she wounded in so many places? Did the enemy do that to her?

[Answer] She was shot up by the enemy. My wife's body was riddled with bullets. My 9-year-old son was shot in the head point blank--deliberate murder.

[Question] How many people in your hamlet were killed by the Cambodian raiders?

[Answer] My hamlet has about 350 people, including about 70 households of new settlers. My guess is that as many as 90 percent were massacred; many families were completely wiped out while others had only one or two survivors. [end recording]

Then there was (Ho Thi Hoa), with wounds all over her body. She lay next to her 6-year-old brother, (Ho Van Thuan), who was still in a coma. Their entire family of eight, except for the sister and brother, had been killed. (Hoa) talked to us in a moving voice:

[Begin recording] My name is (Ho Thi Hoa), 13. I come from Sa Trach hamlet.

[Question] Why is your arm bandaged like that?

[Answer] Before dawn on that day, when we heard gunfire and saw houses burning, all my family hurriedly packed our clothes and prepared to leave; but the soldiers broke in and shot us. My sister was hit in the stomach and I, in the arm. We could not do anything and all our clothes and the house were set on fire. My mother was holding my brother. A soldier took my brother away and clubbed him to death while another shot my mother.

[Question] How many in your family were killed?

[Answer] Eight, including my mother, my sisters and my brothers--all shot to death.
[end recording]

Before us now was (Le Thi Lien) who had just come to after a long coma caused by a wound inflicted by the enemy. She talked with hatred in her eyes.

[Begin recording] My name is (Le Thi Lien), of Sa Trach hamlet, Hung Phuoc village.

[Question] Why are you in this hospital? Were you shot and wounded by the Cambodian soldiers?

[Answer] Yes. The Cambodians killed everyone, burned every house. They shot anyone who tried to escape their burning houses. They burned our home and fired at us, wounding both my husband and me. A family next door suffered six dead. Even the old were not spared. The Cambodians had children carry the torches with which they burned our homes. They destroyed practically everything.

[Question] What kinds of weapons did the Cambodians use to kill our people--knives, machetes?

[Answer] Yes. After shooting me, they tried to smash my skull with rifle butts. When they saw that I was still alive, they stabbed me in the back with bayonets. The stab wounds still hurt me terribly. My husband was wearing a thick khaki shirt when he was stabbed. Somehow the first thrusts failed to pierce his shirt. One Cambodian told another: "Ordinary knives don't cut this fellow; we must use a dagger treated with special potions to kill him." A Cambodian lunged forward with a knife. Seconds later, my husband was dead.

[Question] Who else in your family was killed?

[Answer] None. There were only the two of us in our family. But in other families in the hamlets, one or two members at most survived. No family was spared. Of the seven members in the family of (Tran Van Lam), six were killed. The family of (Tran Thi Tai) lost all its five members. The family next door to us lost six of its eight members. Most of the people in the hamlet were killed. Only a few made it to this place. Three-quarters of Sa Trach's population was wiped out. The Cambodians are extremely inhumane. On my way out of the hamlet under the protection of our troops, I saw the head of a child which the Cambodians had hacked off with hoes. Women were raped, then killed. A nurse who had just returned to Sa Trach to visit her family, was raped and killed. Very cruel, these Cambodians!

[Question, to crying child] Are you badly hurt, child?

[Answer] Yes, my arm! My arm hurts! [end recording]

You have just heard the heart-rending cries of a 2-year old child whose right arm was shot off by Cambodian troops. She is an innocent victim of the serious crimes committed by Cambodian armed forces against our compatriots at 0400 on 16 March.

CAMBODIAN LISTENERS TOLD OF POL POT'S DRACONIAN RULE

BK211157Y Hanoi International Service in Cambodian 0400 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Pol Pot, prime minister of Cambodia, has officially admitted that all universities and schools in Cambodia have been closed, that monetary transactions have been abolished and that the state collects and distributes all production.

Answering questions from Yugoslav journalists, Pol Pot said that Cambodia is building a society following no model. He also said that the Cambodian people will decide whether this regime should be temporary or permanent.

According to Cambodian refugees, the Cambodian authorities' rule is harsh. Some correctly describe this regime as a hell on earth.

Phnom Penh radio recently disclosed that people in various areas have been rising up, demanding their democratic right to live. Many among the Cambodian ruling circles have expressed their disapproval of the present policy of the power-holders in Phnom Penh.

In Cambodia, no one has the right to marry whom one pleases. Marriages are decided by the government. This was stated by (Ngien Hem), a Cambodian national who fled to Vietnam. (Ngien Hem), asked permission to marry 16 times. With his last request he was arrested and bound to a tree for many days.

(Ngien Hem) said that the so-called "marriages" are organized to include 30 to 42 couples at a time. The couples simply stand and wait for the commune chief to read out the name-lists of who should marry whom.

At (Sre Samraong) commune in Svay Rieng Province, the commune chief forced 40 women from 18 to 22 to sleep with 40 disabled troops. These 40 unlucky women were led away at gun-point by district troops last year, and never returned.

LATE REPORT: LE DUAN VISITS LONG AN BORDER PROVINCE

BK220750Y Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text] According to the paper LONG AN the Long An provincial party organization and people recently had the pleasure and honor to welcome party Central Committee General Secretary Le Duan who visited their province.

The comrade general secretary worked with the provincial party organization standing committee, visited state farms and industrial enterprises, attended an exhibition of archeologic artifacts excavated in [words indistinct] An Son area in Duc Hoa district and addressed a meeting of provincial cadres.

On the (Duc Muc) state farm, one of the major state farms built by the army to grow pineapple and sugarcane, the comrade general secretary inquired about and exchanged views on the methods of growing and processing pineapple and sugarcane and on the supply of fertilizer. He commended state farm cadres for their industriousness and bravery in opening virgin land and in motivating the compatriots to develop production. He urged the brother and sister cadres to develop innovations and make every effort to use every available square inch of land to expand the cultivated area, increase crop productivity and quickly produce as many goods as possible for the people's consumption. He also urged them to grow many fruit trees and increase the industrial crop area to support animal husbandry.

The comrade general secretary also visited families specializing in growing pineapple in (Luong Hoa) village.

He was very pleased to note that the local peasants have enthusiastically engaged in production with unswerving, absolute confidence in party leadership and in the local administration. They have gradually stabilized their material and moral life and satisfactorily implemented all state policies and guidelines.

Visiting the Long An joint state-private weaving enterprise in (Thi Tu) in the (Cau Voi) area, the comrade general secretary commended its cadres and workers who have overcome difficulties concerning raw materials and have fully used available raw materials to make spare parts, thus saving funds for the state. He reminded the board of managers to pay special attention to caring for the material and moral life of the cadres and workers, to satisfactorily insure labor safety and to meet their cultural, health and entertainment demands.

Addressing a meeting of more than 100 provincial leading cadres, the comrade general secretary highly evaluated the achievements scored by the local soldiers and people over the past 3 years. He called on the provincial party organization and people to develop the "be loyal and stalwart; all people fight foreign aggressors" tradition and to give full play to the workers' right to collective ownership in order to vigorously accelerate the movement [as heard] and achieve new successes in socialist transformation and socialist construction.

The comrade general secretary reminded the Long An provincial party organization to constantly build unity and strive to fulfill all duties entrusted to it by the central echelons, especially in developing the production of grain and food products and in defending the border and territory.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON GDR LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY VISIT

OW211541Y Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

["Press communique on GDR Liberal Democratic Party's visit to Vietnam"--VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi, 21 Mar (VNA)--At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Democratic Party [VDP], a delegation of the GDR Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] led by Dr Manfred Gerlach, president of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and Presidium member of the National Council of the National Front, paid a friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from March 6 to 21, 1978.

Gerhard Fischer, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Central Committee of the GDR Liberal Democratic Party, was the second member of the delegation.

President Manfred Gerlach was accompanied by his wife, Hanna Gerlach.

This visit is of important significance. It marks a new step in the development of the relations of solidarity and friendship between the Vietnam Democratic Party and the GDR Liberal Democratic Party and contributes to strengthening and increasing the revolutionary solidarity and the time-honoured relations of fraternal cooperation between the peoples of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the German Democratic Republic. It contributes to the consolidation and development of international solidarity of the socialist system.

During its stay in Vietnam, the Liberal Democratic Party delegation laid a wreath at the war memorial and visited the house of the late President Ho Chi Minh.

It toured Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong and the Quang Ninh coalfields. It had cordial meetings with committees of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and visited factories, production establishments, museums, construction projects, cultural centers and historic sites.

Wherever it went, the delegation was warmly welcomed by leading members of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the people's committees, and representatives of the people of various strata.

It was cordially received by Nguyen Huu Tho, vice president of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Xuan Thuy, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, cordially received the delegation.

The delegation called on the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. Hoang Quoc Viet, president of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front Central Committee, and members of the Presidium and of the Secretariat of the Fatherland Front Central Committee, received the delegation in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

In the evening of March 18, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Democratic Party and its Hanoi committee held a meeting to welcome the fine success of the delegation's visit.

During the visit, a delegation of the Vietnam Democratic Party led by General Secretary Nghiem Xuan Yem, and the delegation of the GDR Liberal Democratic Party led by President Manfred Gerlach held talks in an atmosphere of solidarity, friendship and mutual understanding.

The two sides informed each other of the situation in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the German Democratic Republic. The Vietnamese side spoke about socialist construction and transformation in Vietnam and the economic and cultural successes of Vietnam since the liberation of the south. The GDR side spoke of the building of a developed socialist society in the German Democratic Republic and the great economic, scientific and technical achievements of the GDR people.

Their joint assessment was that in the light of the resolution of the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the resolution of the Ninth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the peoples of the two countries are enthusiastically engaged in a patriotic emulation movement to take their countries forward to the noble goals of socialism.

They were elated and proud to note that the Vietnam Democratic Party and the GDR Liberal Democratic Party have made positive contributions to the glorious socialist revolutionary cause of their respective countries.

The delegations of the Vietnam Democratic Party and the GDR Liberal Democratic Party warmly greeted the success of the friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam made by a delegation of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the German Democratic Republic led by Erich Honecker, general-secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State.

This visit was an event of paramount significance and constituted a landmark in the strengthening of the friendship and solidarity between the two leading parties, states and peoples of Vietnam and the GDR, a relationship imbued with pure and consistent revolutionary sentiments. The visit established a new yardstick for assessing the friendly relations between the Vietnam Democratic Party and the GDR Liberal Democratic Party. Both sides fully agreed with the joint statement signed on December 4, 1977, by Le Duan, general-secretary of the VCP Central Committee, and Erich Honecker, general-secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State. The two parties pledged to do their utmost to motivate their cadres and members to implement the friendship and cooperation treaty signed on December 4, 1977, between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the German Democratic Republic.

Nghiem Xuan Yem, head of the Vietnam Democratic Party delegation, underlined the fact that, with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Democratic Party fully supports the GDR people in fulfilling their tasks of defending their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of their national borders against all schemes and acts of interference in the internal affairs of the GDR by imperialist forces.

He voiced the admiration of all cadres and members of the Vietnam Democratic Party for the brilliant achievements of the GDR people over the past 30 years, which have quickly turned the GDR into one of the most developed countries.

The international status of the GDR has constantly been raised, and the GDR has become an important factor for the maintenance of peace and security in Europe and elsewhere.

As with the people and government of Vietnam, the Vietnam Democratic Party will never forget the noble sense of international solidarity of the fraternal GDR people, including the GDR Liberal Democratic Party, who have always supported, encouraged and warmly assisted the Vietnamese people in their patriotic war against U.S. aggression for national salvation as well as in socialist construction.

Dr Manfred Gerlach, head of the delegation of the GDR Liberal Democratic Party, highly valued the example of indomitable and persistent fighting set by the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and praised the satisfactory initial achievements of the Vietnamese people in the important tasks set by the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, for taking the whole country to socialism. He stressed the important international role of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, outpost of socialism in Southeast Asia.

He affirmed that the GDR state and people will continue to unite with and support Vietnam in socialist construction in the new stage. Loyal to socialist internationalism, the GDR Liberal Democratic Party will maintain its solidarity with the entire Vietnamese people. The GDR Liberal Democratic Party fully supports the December 31, 1977, statement and the three-point proposal made in the February 5, 1978, statement of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, that:

"--An immediate end shall be put to all hostile military activities in the border region; the armed forces of each party shall be stationed within their respective territory 5 kilometers from the border.

"--The two sides shall meet at once to discuss and sign a treaty, in which they will undertake to respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"--The two sides shall reach agreement on an appropriate form of international guarantee and supervision."

The delegation of the Vietnam Democratic Party and the delegation of the GDR Liberal Democratic Party held the same views in appraising the present international situation and held that the world power balance today is tipping more and more in favor of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. The three world revolutionary currents have grown stronger day by day. They are closely cooperating with each other to defeat imperialism, colonialism old and new, and the other reactionary forces. The crisis of imperialism is deepening and imperialism is weakening, although it is launching frenzied counterattacks.

The two parties welcomed the successes recorded in the struggle for peace and security in Europe. They unanimously held that it is now more necessary than ever to constantly strengthen the socialist countries, carry out the positive, firm and constructive foreign policy of the socialist countries, and at the same time, heighten revolutionary vigilance, check all schemes of division and sabotage of the imperialists, and demand strict implementation of the treaties already signed which are important factors for ensuring security in Europe. The two parties stressed the importance of peaceful co-existence between the German Democratic Republic and Federal Republic of Germany.

The two parties expressed support for the Southeast Asian people's efforts and desire to live in peace and independence with cooperation among the countries in this region, and expressed full support for the struggle of the peoples in this region for closure of the imperialists' military bases and for withdrawal of all imperialist troops from their countries.

The two parties warmly supported the positive four-point foreign policy of the leading party and Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam toward Southeast Asian countries.

The two parties hailed the successes recorded by the peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America in their dauntless struggle against imperialism, colonialism old and new, and for national independence, democracy and social progress. The two parties fully supported the just struggle of the Arab and Palestinian peoples against the Israeli policy of aggression.

The two delegations informed each other of the activities of the Vietnam Democratic Party and the GDR Liberal Democratic Party, and exchanged experiences of their party cadres and members in educating and encouraging all strata of intellectuals and traders and businessmen to make their best contributions to the socialist revolution in Vietnam as well as in the German Democratic Republic.

The two delegations unanimously reaffirmed that the revolutionary path along which the Vietnam Democratic Party and the GDR Liberal Democratic Party are advancing under the banner of Marxism-Leninism and in keeping with the line of the working class' political vanguard party of their countries is fully consistent with the laws governing the development of revolution and of society and is the only correct and the most glorious path. Firmly advancing along the revolutionary path, in accordance with the concrete circumstances and conditions of each country, the VDP and the GDR LDP can constantly develop their capabilities to help build their countries and international solidarity.

The two sides expressed their joy and satisfaction to see the traditional friendship between the VDP and the GDR LDP strengthen and develop over the past 20 years. In the talks on March 7, 1978, the two delegations reached identity of views of all problems of common concern.

The two sides agreed to maintain solidarity and friendly cooperation between the VDP and the GDR LDP by appropriate means and methods, according to the present conditions of each country.

Comrade Nghiem Xuan Yem, secretary general of the VDP, sincerely thanks President Manfred Gerlach and the delegation of the GDR LDP for having accepted the invitation of the Central Committee of the VDP to pay a friendship visit to Vietnam, bringing to the people of Vietnam, to cadres and members of the party, profound sentiments of solidarity of the GDR people and the comrade cadres and members of the GDR LDP. The comrade secretary general of the VDP accepted the GDR LDP's invitation to visit the GDR at a time to be set later.

VCP GREETES SRI LANKA COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

OW211601Y Hanoi VNA in English 1540 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 21 Mar (VNA)--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam has sent the following message to the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka:

"On behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Vietnamese working class and people, we would like to express our warm and fraternal greetings to the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka and to all communists in Sri Lanka.

"We are very glad at the unceasing development of the friendship and solidarity between the working class and peoples of our two countries.

"On this occasion, we sincerely thank you for the sympathy and support of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, of democratic organizations and the people of Sri Lanka to our past patriotic war of resistance against U.S. aggression, and to the present endeavor of the Vietnamese people to build socialism, and particularly for your recent wholehearted support for the stand of our government in its December 31, 1977, and February 5, 1978, statements on Vietnam-Kampuchea relations.

"We wish the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the working class and the people of Sri Lanka many outstanding achievements in building an independent, democratic, peaceful and progressive Sri Lanka, thus making an ever greater contribution to the consolidation of peace in Asia, and to the movement of the nonaligned countries. May the friendly cooperation between our two parties, two countries be ever developed. Good success to your congress."

LAO RULING PARTY'S ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

VCP Greetings

OW211605V Hanoi VNA in English 1544 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 21 Mar (VNA)--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam today sent a message to the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party on its 23d anniversary. The message reads:

"Under the correct, creative and firm leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party--a genuinely Marxist-Leninist political party--the brother Lao people of various nationalities completely liberated their country in 1975, overthrowing the rule of the U.S. neo-colonialists, shattering the U.S.-rigged politico-military machine, founding the Lao People's Democratic Republic, opening a new, radiant era for the building of a peaceful, independent, unified, democratic and socialist Laos.

"Following the complete liberation of their country and the birth of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and in the light of the resolutions of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Lao people have brought into play their revolutionary heroism to overcome all trials. They have recorded many new successes in building and defending their country, in consolidating the revolutionary administration, transforming and developing the economy, developing culture, and gradually stabilizing and improving their life, thus bringing about profound revolutionary changes in the political and social life and creating a new good basis for the advance of the Lao revolution.

"The great success of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party in its domestic and foreign policies have enhanced the position of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

"The special relationship and strong solidarity between the parties and peoples of Vietnam and Laos was a primary factor of our two countries' common historic victories in 1975. We are very happy to note that the warm fraternity and comradeship between Vietnam and Laos has constantly been strengthened on the basis of our mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of the principles of equality and mutual assistance.

"The signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty, a border treaty, a joint statement, and other documents between a Vietnamese party and government delegation and a corresponding Lao delegation in July last year was the climax of the special relationship between the two countries and a new basis for the constant development of our all-sided cooperation for both the immediate and long-term interests of Vietnam and Laos. [We] will do everything to fully implement these treaties.

"We wish the Lao People's Revolutionary Party--the beacon of the Lao people--many brilliant achievements in this new stage of revolution.

"May the great friendship between Vietnam and Laos last forever."

'Special Relationship' Extolled

BK221210Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Report on unattributed article published in 22 March NHAN DAN on the 23d anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party--title of article not given]

[Text] The article points out: By creatively applying the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism and bringing the people's ardent patriotism and revolutionary heroism to bear, the LPRP--a genuine political party of the proletariat--has established an independent and sovereign line, developed original methods of revolutionary struggle, created opportunities and thereby taken the revolution from partial to complete victory. Holding high the banner of national independence and democracy and combining genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism, the LPRP gave full play the strength of all-people unity, remained united with the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia and simultaneously won broad international support, thereby creating an invincible might to defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

The birth of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a new-style state under people's mastery, marked an extremely momentous turning point in Laos' history. It was a brilliant achievement of the extremely glorious revolutionary struggle waged by Laos' various nationalities under the LPRP's correct, skillful leadership.

Following the complete victory of the people's national democratic revolution, the LPRP has developed a line for advancing to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development--a line consistent with the aspirations of all strata and with the objective law of historic evolution.

Realities over the past 22 years eloquently prove the correctness of the LPRP's Marxist-Leninist domestic and foreign policies. The Lao people's achievements in 2 short years have filled their friends, near and far alike, with joy, have won their admiration and further strengthened their confidence in the bright future of the Lao revolution.

The article stresses: The Vietnamese communists and people warmly welcome the great, comprehensive victories of the fraternal Lao working class and people. We are extremely elated over the profound relationship between our two parties, states and peoples--a relationship which has grown ever stronger and purer after each trial, and has proved ever more worthy of being a special relationship of friendship between two nations. This special relationship is not only a continuation of the time-honored traditional friendship between two neighboring nations, but has also been fostered and built on the basis of genuine patriotism and lofty proletarian internationalism in accordance with the principles of true equality and of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other nations, and in the spirit of camaraderie of comrades-in-arms who have fought in the same trench for the same ideals and who have shared weal and woe, shoulder to shoulder.

The special relationship between Vietnam and Laos has created a marvellous moral and material strength which has enabled the peoples of both countries always to recognize their enemies, to see through and smash their insidious schemes, to crush all reactionary powers and to take the two nations to great, historic victories.

Now that the revolutions of both countries have entered a new stage, continuously protecting and strengthening this exemplary unity has become all the more sacred an international duty and a task aimed at serving the vital interests of each nation as well as the interests of peace and security among the various nations in this part of the world.

The Vietnamese people will do everything to insure constant development of this noble friendship.

SOCIALIST PARTY DISCUSSES DRAFT CONSTITUTION

OW211133Y Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Text] The Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Vietnam has held an enlarged meeting to study the draft constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The participants unanimously held that the public discussion of the draft constitution would help to increase the sense of collective mastery and of responsibility among both brain [as heard] and manual workers. They contributed many opinions to each article and chapter of the draft constitution.

PROGRESS IN DRIVE TO IMPROVE ARMY DISCIPLINE VIEWED

OW152243Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] All our army units have positively developed the movement to strengthen discipline and the socialist legal system by implementing the resolution of the Central Military Party Committee. Party committees at all levels have issued resolutions and taken specific measures to increase the effectiveness of leadership and command in order to make this movement successful.

Many units have organized cadre groups under the supervision of their leaders to control implementation of the movement. Some localities have sent cadres from various organs to guide and assist weak low-level units in improving discipline. Some units have begun to make fair progress in scrupulously implementing the combat readiness systems, observing army discipline and complying with state laws. Notably some units have attached great importance to teaching discipline to new combatants. As a result, these combatants have become even more conscious of their duties, worked at political and military studies and achieved good results in the initial phase of military service. Several storage units have established storage systems and made initial progress in the storing, inventory, classification and maintenance of goods, weapons and equipment, and many units have undergone visible changes.

Apart from these good units, other units have only issued instructions--considering this their final task--and have failed to send cadres to inspect and assess the situation at the lower levels. Consequently they have not taken proper effective measures to improve discipline. From experiences in the movement to strengthen discipline, we can see the need to grasp the objectives, substance and requirements of the movement in order to make it successful.

Some units concentrate only on the unimportant points and not the substance of the movement. They emphasize only such things as behavior, courtesy and certain regulations.

The movement to strengthen discipline and the socialist legal system launched by the Central Military Party Committee is aimed at upholding the sense of organization and discipline of our cadres and combatants and at strengthening their sense of collective mastery. It also seeks to develop the revolutionary tradition and nature of our people's armed forces so that they can fulfill all tasks in the new stage.

Strengthening discipline is a basic issue in improving quality of troops. It is linked with enhancing the revolutionary nature of the people's armed forces and exerts a profound influence on implementation of all tasks in the units and on the relations and solidarity between the army and people as well. Our armed forces' discipline is strict and self-imposed; it goes hand-in-hand with democracy. Discipline and democracy embody the collective mastery of cadres and combatants and the socialist collective mastery system in our armed forces. Discipline represents the organic coordination between self-consciousness and compulsiveness. Discipline which is not self-imposed is not the discipline of the revolutionary army, while without compulsion there can be no discipline. This involves coordination between an organization and its men, and between a collective and its individuals based on unanimity of combat objectives as well as revolutionary line and method set forth by the party.

The most basic requirement in army discipline is to firmly and strictly implement the party's resolutions, the upper echelons' orders and directives, state laws and the armed forces' regulations, systems and rules of combat, productive labor, economic construction and other activities as well as the systems and rules governing the armed forces' relations with state organs and mass organizations. To improve discipline in our armed forces we must fulfill all tasks, comply with the party's line, policies and guidelines, strengthen internal solidarity and army-people solidarity, and maintain and develop the revolutionary nature of the armed forces. Thus, to uphold discipline we must improve understanding of the revolutionary line and tasks as well as the tasks of the armed forces and units, intensify education in the revolutionary nature and fine traditions of the people's armed forces; strengthen the sense of organization; grasp all principles, legal systems, regulations and orders; increase the armed forces' capacity for action; strive to overcome manifestations of negativeness, liberalism and lack of principles as well as failure to seriously implement the party's resolutions and directives, state laws, orders of upper echelons and the regulations and systems of the armed forces.

In order to enthusiastically and resolutely assist their units in efficiently conducting the movement to become advanced units in observing discipline and in fulfilling all tasks in the new stage in an outstanding manner, cadres in charge of units must eliminate all erroneous acts against our combatants, administration and people; grasp the objectives, substance and requirements of the movement; follow only the party line while taking various measures to enhance the sense of responsibility; and adopt a correct attitude.

NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONFERENCE ENDS IN HANOI 19 March

Le Thanh Nghi Remarks

OW191619Y Hanoi VNA in English 1542 GMT 19 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 19 Mar (VNA)--The 1978 national conference on the emulation movement of the irrigation branch closed here this afternoon after 4 days' sitting. The conference was attended by 450 representatives of Vietnam's 38 provinces and cities, including heroes and heroines, front-rank workers, and members of socialist labour teams.

Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, was present. Addressing the conference, he praised the outstanding achievements and new progress recorded last year in the irrigation and water conservancy work, and the outstanding units and localities in this field. He called on the branches and services concerned to strive to fulfil the state plan on irrigation for 1978 and the following years, adding that irrigation work is the foremost measure to develop agricultural production with the aim of producing 21 million tons of goods by 1980.

In his report, Hoang Tien, vice minister of water conservancy, brought out the achievements of the whole branch last year and the tasks assigned to it this year by the state.

At the closing session of the conference, Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the party Central Committee and minister of water conservancy, on behalf of the government handed rotating flags of the government over to the five most outstanding units - the provinces of An Giang, Ha Nam Ninh and Thanh Hoa, the Bac Hung Hai Irrigation Company, and the No 2 Irrigation Company. The Ministry of Water Conservancy's rotating flags were also awarded to eight civilian and two army units for their meritorious services in this field.

1977 Achievements, 1978 Goals

OW220409Y Hanoi VNA in English 0231 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 22 Mar (VNA)--By the end of 1977, irrigation works were watering 1,420,000 hectares under spring rice and 2,052,000 hectares under summer rice throughout Vietnam and almost 460,000 hectares under summer-autumn rice exclusively cultivated in the south. This achievement was brought out by Vice Minister of Water Conservancy Hoang Tien in his report to the 1978 national conference on the emulation movement of the irrigation branch, which closed here yesterday.

Last year saw adverse weather in Vietnam. In northern provinces the drought-stricken areas in both main rice seasons reached 300,000 hectares. Hurricane Sarah, which swept Vietnam on July 21, caused a heavy flood. Nevertheless, great efforts in the reinforcement and maintenance of irrigation works and in making full use of the water resources of these works helped limit the difficulties and ensure the irrigation and drainage of the fields. The 55 irrigation systems in the plains and uplands watered 850,000 hectares. With 480,000 hectares of them watered methodically in all weathers and in both seasons, 60,000 hectares more than the previous year. Rice output in methodically watered areas also increased by ten to 15 percent. Small irrigation works in northern mountain provinces ensured water for 280,000 hectares under rice, subsidiary crops and industrial plants.

Last year it did not rain in central Vietnam for seven successive months, but the drought was limited by ponds, wells, large reservoirs, dams and newly-dredged ditches and canals. Nghia Binh Province's irrigation works ensured water for almost 100,000 hectares and protected 24,000 others from the scorching sun. The mass movement for building irrigation projects also developed vigorously in northern provinces after liberation, resulting in several hundred works of various types and sizes now in operation.

Thanks to irrigation works, as many as 620,000 hectares in the Mekong River Delta and eastern south Vietnam produced crops in the summer, autumn and winter of 1977--130,000 hectares more than in 1976.

Last year An Giang Province, west of Ho Chi Minh City, moved more than 3 million cubic metres of earth to build more than 1,000 kilometres of ditches and canals, thus doubling the acreage of its irrigated fields compared with the previous year. Many army units completed medium and large sized projects such as the Lach Bang sluice dam in Thanh Hoa Province and the 26 million cubic-metre Dac Uy (Dac Uy) reservoir in the central highlands province of Darlac.

Under the 1978 state plan, the irrigation branch must ensure water for 1,860,000 hectares under rice, 17,000 hectares under cotton and 100,000 hectares under other food and industrial crops, and must help to fight storms and floods to protect the lives and property of the people and production. These tasks require three main undertakings at the same time: to further motivate the people to build small irrigation projects, to make the best use of the existing works, and to build more and more major projects and quickly perfect the irrigation networks in all parts of the country.

NHAN DAN on 'Uneven' Progress

BK190645Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The NHAN DAN editorial today [17 March] reviews progressive experiences gained in the irrigation movement. It says:

Dealing with agriculture, the resolution of the fourth party congress reads in part: "We must pay specific attention to intensive cultivation, multicropping and acreage expansion. We must make large capital investments and initiate a mass movement to step up irrigation."

In 1977, in the light of the party congress' resolution, the irrigation movement took strong and active steps in keeping with a nationwide spirit of concerted emulation. Last year irrigation work was confronted with unprecedentedly adverse weather conditions. Every possible measure was used to find water sources including (?spring water) and underground water to insure sufficient irrigation for crops in time without having to rely on rainwater or wait for water pumps to be installed or major irrigation projects to be completed. Many localities fully developed their potential in carrying out irrigation.

Various southern provinces with few farmland irrigation projects spent tens of millions of man-days dredging and digging irrigation canals and ditches, building embankments and dams to reroute saline water and conserve fresh water and digging tens of thousands of ponds and water wells. They used water baskets and water wheels, made full use of small diesel-powered pumps and organized teams to combat drought. Irrigation efforts greatly contributed to fulfilling the 5th-month and 10th-month rice crops throughout the country. The summer-fall rice crop in the south and the winter rice crop in the north were sown on larger areas than in past years.

The concerted irrigation movement initiated in various parts of the country provided us with numerous valuable experiences and created many progressive models in the fields of managing and exploiting medium-and small-size irrigation projects and building large manual labor irrigation projects. It is reported that Thanh Hoa, An Giang, Quang Ninh, Nghia Binh and Dac Lac provinces, Ho Chi Minh City, the Ke Go irrigation project site, Thang Binh district of Quang Nam-Danang Province, Go Cong district of Tien Giang Province, A Yun Pa district of Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province, Que Nhut village of Thanh Hoa Province, (Au Giang) village of Dac Lac Province, the Cau Ve pumping station of Hai Hung Province, the Bac Hung Hai farmland irrigation corporation, the 2d water conservancy engineering corporation, the survey and project institute, the 250th machineworks of the Ministry of Water Conservancy and the 707th and 14th regiments all scored many achievements in the irrigation movement and spread the word on their many useful experiences.

Various progressive units have conscientiously and creatively applied the party and the state policies and slogans for irrigation work in accordance with existing conditions, thus producing practical economic results. They have upheld a sense of socialist collective ownership and a spirit of revolutionary offensive; observed the slogan "the state and the people work together"; overcome all difficulties; achieved self-reliance; multiplied progressive models and made full use of their overall potentials, especially the great potentials and the manpower of their own localities. On this basis, they have launched a strong and continuous emulation movement on the irrigation front.

While actively building large irrigation projects which need many years to complete, localities have initiated a widespread movement to build medium- and small-size irrigation projects which they can build quickly and in large numbers and put to use earlier.

In addition to various manual labor irrigation projects built at the provincial level, many provinces have allowed districts to organize their own combined construction forces to build irrigation projects that only the provincial level could previously undertake. This practice has helped accelerate the pace of construction and expansion of irrigated acreage in all areas and has been instrumental in stimulating district authorities to surge forward to handle difficult work.

Coordinating the central, provincial, district and grassroots levels is the key to exploiting our combined strength to step up irrigation activities. However, it is reported that certain aspects of irrigation activities continue to be unsatisfactory; that the irrigation movement is not yet being evenly and continuously carried out, that the organization, management and use of some projects is not yet being taken seriously, that a number of areas are still not paying enough attention to building small- and medium-size irrigation projects and that economical irrigation activities have not yet become truly widespread. As for construction skills, many localities have failed to develop a spirit of revolutionary offensive and fully master the scientific nature of the technique of building irrigation works. As a result many irrigation works have collapsed. This has caused losses in men and property.

The cause of bringing irrigation activities into full play is a difficult and glorious struggle to counter natural calamities, restore and improve the nature and do away with poverty and backwardness. The irrigation tasks for 1978 and for the remaining 3 years of the second 5-Year Plan are very heavy. Only through a widespread, active and continuous revolutionary movement with the participation of a majority of the population from all parts of the country can we successfully carry out these irrigation tasks.

FOREIGN TRADE SERVICE DEVELOPS IN NAMED PROVINCES

OW190736Y Hanoi VNA in English 0725 GMT 19 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 19 Mar (VNA)--In the first two months of this year, the sea foods service of Quang Ninh Province bought nearly 100 tons of fresh shrimp and cuttlefish for export, and a quantity of dried shrimp which surpassed 30 percent of the 1978 quota of dried shrimp for export.

Farmers in Kien Giang Province have sold the state more than 3,000 tons of pineapple for export. The province's pineapple output in the first two months of this year equalled half that of last year. The province's foreign trade service has signed contracts with farmers in pineapple-growing areas to purchase 10,000 tons by the end of this year.

The foreign trade service in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province is increasing the production of farm, forestry, industrial and handicraft products for export in an effort to reach 30 million dong worth of export commodities this year. Many localities in the province have set up teams for making bamboo blinds, woolen carpets, embroidery and other farm and forestry products. Last year the province turned out 20 items of export goods including floor timber, cinnamon, woolen carpets, bamboo blinds and frozen sea foods.

The foreign trade services in Ben Tre and Cuu Long provinces are stepping up the exploitation of sea foods and farm products and handicraft items. Ben Tre Province alone in the first two months of this year bought hundreds of tons of shrimp, hundreds of tons of bananas and thousands of hats for export. The province's foreign trade service is striving to double the total value of export goods this year compared with last year.

LE THANH NGHI ADDRESSES CONFERENCE ON DISTRICTS' ROLE

OW220805Y Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 22 Mar (VNA)--Building the districts into comprehensive agricultural-industrial units has been under discussion by senior officials at a conference here convened by the premier's office. The strategic significance of the district unit was underlined by Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi, who said that building districts was an important part of the general line for socialist economic construction.

The vice-premier, addressing the more than 600 cabinet ministers, vice-ministers, and leading district and provincial cadres, pointed out that the district was an appropriate level for combining agriculture and industry, the state and the collective economies and the central and local economies. The district, he said, is also suitable for combining economic construction and national defense and for the maintenance of law and order. It should link town and country, and serve as a basis for the simultaneous development of the economy, culture, education, public health, and other activities.

Districts, he said, were ideal for the simultaneous carrying out of the three revolutions--in production relations, in science and technology, and in culture and ideology--whose aims are to build a new political system, a new economy, a new culture, and new-type of people.

Concrete measures for the implementation of this general line were discussed. These included economic, budgetary, and cultural planning, organization, improvement of work style, and personnel training.

VO VAN KIET CITES NEED FOR MEAT AND EGGS IN CITIES

BK211208Y Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0200 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Text] On 19 March Comrade Vo Van Kiet, secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, visited some state-run animal husbandry establishments such as the (Phuoc Long) hog raising farm and the (Binh An) chicken farm, as well as some privately-owned hog raising farms in Thu Duc district. At these places he stressed the need to further increase coordination between state-run and private animal husbandry on a large scale. He also encouraged capitalist traders to switch to industrial and agricultural production work and especially to step up animal husbandry in order to provide plenty of meat and eggs to the urban people. This would benefit national welfare, the people's livelihood and the traders themselves, he said.

SUHARTO WINS MPR'S UNANIMOUS REELECTION

BK220548v Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0500 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Sixth People's Consultative Assembly [MPR] plenary session this morning unanimously elected General Suharto as president of the Republic of Indonesia for another term from 1978 to 1983. General Suharto was the sole candidate nominated for the presidency by the five MPR factions.

Deputy speaker of the MPR, who presided over the plenary session, said that MPR Decision No 2 of 1973, which has been readopted at the current MPR session, was the basis used for the current MPR general session's presidential elections. He said according to all letters he received, all factions proposed Suharto as the sole candidate in the presidential election.

The MPR leadership, prior to the election, also conducted examination of the presidential candidate. From the examination it was ascertained that all requirements as stipulated in Article 1 of MPR Decision No 2 of 1973 were fulfilled. Based on Article 13, paragraph 2 of the MPR decision, which stated that if there is only one candidate proposed by all factions, the sole candidate will be formally appointed as president and is declared elected by the MPR. [sentence as heard].

The MPR plenary session this morning was attended by 842 members and lasted about 6 minutes. Also attending were all members of the MPR leadership.

REVOLUTIONARY JOURNAL ASSAILS SUHARTO 'FASCIST REGIME'

OW210301v Voice of the Malayan Revolution [Clandestine] in Mandarin to Malaysia and Singapore 1330 GMT 16 Mar 78 OW

[Text of Indonesian revolutionary journal VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA February 1978 editorial: "The Suharto Regime Is at the End of Its Rope"]

[Text] The Suharto military clique usurped political power after massacring communists, revolutionaries and other patriotic democratic elements between late 1965 and early 1966. This constituted a temporary occupation of Indonesia's political arena by fascism.

Fascism is a system of dictatorial rule by naked terrorism. It is a variant of bourgeois democracy. Indonesia's bourgeois democratic regime led by President Sukarno was superseded by Suharto's fascist regime--dictatorial rule using naked terrorism.

Fascism is antinational and opposed to patriotism. Indonesia's comprador-military clique and other rightist forces linked Indonesia's interests with those of international monopoly capitalists and imperialists, particularly U.S. imperialism. Under President Sukarno's regime, their activities were opposed not only by President Sukarno and national bourgeois and progressive patriotic persons, but also, and more vigorously, by the broad working masses led by the Indonesian Communist Party [PKI].

Under President Sukarno, Indonesia's indebtedness during the 20-year period up to 1966 totaled \$2.5 billion. However, the debt owed by the Suharto fascist regime to the bloc of nations controlled by U.S. imperialism during a 10-year period totaled about \$12.9 billion.

To suppress the Indonesian people's resistance, the Indonesian military-comprador clique, in addition to launching large-scale massacres and persecution, banned the PKI, a political party of Indonesia's proletariat and the most faithful defender of the Indonesian people's fundamental interests. The clique's deceptive policies, large-scale brainwashing campaigns and anticommunist propaganda poisoned the political atmosphere, paving the way for consolidation of Suharto's fascist military regime. After practicing white terror against communist and noncommunist revolutionaries, Suharto murdered President Sukarno, killing him without bloodshed, and oppressed the national bourgeoisie. All political parties considered sympathetic to the PKI were banned. In March 1967, the legal regime led by President Sukarno was overthrown and Suharto became president of the new regime.

The Suharto fascist military regime is the general representative of compradors, bureaucratic capitalists and feudal landlords and of all the imperialist countries. Suharto and the classes he represents maintain close ties with those international monopoly capitalists engaging in such activities as investing, extending credits and operating joint ventures in Indonesia.

The Suharto fascist military regime can financially support itself only by sacrificing and betraying the interests of the workers, peasants, fishermen, poor urban residents, intellectuals, national entrepreneurs, young students, college students as well as Indonesian people of all strata subjected to oppression and exploitation. Suharto is a running dog of imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism. He serves the interests of his masters--international monopoly capitalists and multinational companies. The interests of Suharto and his clique are also closely linked with international monopoly capitalists and multinational companies.

To cover up reactionary activities and economic plunder by imperialism and his own clique, Suharto has done his utmost to confuse and poison people's minds, engaging in conspiracy and intrigue in a big way and pretending to be ready to safeguard the people's political and economic interests.

In the course of consolidating his fascist regime, Suharto has adopted a series of measures, including cheating, use of force, blackmail, threats and bribery. However, whatever measures he may take, he will never give up his own strategic goal--to maintain his counterrevolutionary fascist regime and keep it tied to the rule of international monopoly capitalists and imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism.

On the basic question of rule of law under the capitalist system, namely the question of democratic and basic human rights, Suharto has played the trick of ostensibly respecting the law but actually weakening it. Although he still dons the garb of parliamentary democracy to curry favor with its devotees and his supporters, he is gradually destroying the foundation of bourgeois parliamentary democracy.

Shortly after his assumption of power, Suharto pressed the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly [MPR] to convene in an atmosphere of terrorism, murder, destitution, fear and political tension. He gradually weakened various parties from within in order to ultimately control them. He employed unfair tactics to merge nine parties into the Indonesian Democratic Party [PDI] and the United Development Party [PPP]. Apart from these two, there is only one other party, the Functional Group controlled by Suharto. The two so-called general elections controlled by Suharto were nothing but tools of his fascist democracy. They only further weakened the PDI and the PPP.

Two general election farces in 1971 and 1977 took place in a political atmosphere of dissension, instability, tension and violence. Although the Suharto regime uses a democracy, it is increasingly exposing its fascist nature. The broad masses from all social strata--especially college students and intellectuals--have awakened, rising to resist the regime.

College students have advanced the slogans "Democracy is dead," "Lament over the death of the five democratic principles in building the country," and "Rule of law for the public is nothing but empty talk" in the course of their struggle. They have lampooned and satirized statements made by the Suharto fascist military regime on democracy, the five principles of building the country and protecting the rule of law as well as other deceptive assertions. This has increasingly exposed the oppressive and deceptive policy of the Suharto fascist military regime to the people. The struggle to oppose Suharto was a key political issue in 1977.

Since the beginning of this year, the anti-Suharto struggle has developed. The struggle has intensified since the MPR held its plenary session on 11 March 1978--another one of Suharto's political frauds. Before and after the 1977 general election farce, the fascist military regime used the armed forces, as well as violence, terror, deception and bribery, to suppress popular resistance. On the eve of the MPR the Suharto fascist military regime again resorted to armed violence, threats and similar tactics. For instance, it ordered newspapers to suspend publication, arrested college students, used rifle butts and bayonets to beat and injure college students, dissolved student associations and evaluation committees at universities and colleges throughout the country and ordered troops to occupy these institutions. Under the circumstances, college students have displayed an unyielding struggle spirit in the face of enemy guns and knives. The slogan "The sky may fall but the spirit of the teachers cannot be crushed" at Pajajaran University in Bandung shows the strong fighting spirit of college students in opposing Suharto.

All Indonesian revolutionaries who warmly love their fatherland and yearn for genuine national independence, democracy and freedom, should draw lessons from the national calamity caused the Indonesian people since the Suharto fascist regime came to power 12 years ago. Fascism is the common enemy of the various classes who warmly love their fatherland.

Whenever fascism prepares to assume power, it always first directs its attack at communists, then at other progressive and patriotic people, national democrats, and finally at democracy itself. Therefore, so long as all forces--especially the Indonesian communists and working people--oppressed by the Suharto fascist military regime join together, the struggle to oppose the Suharto regime will certainly triumph. This is an objective truth.

This era does not belong to Suharto and his clique. Suharto's fascist totalitarian regime goes against historical development. He has long been spurned by revolutionary Indonesian people. His role as national renegade and traitor has been more and more clearly exposed to the broad masses in Indonesia. He is beset with difficulties. His deceptive tactics and policy of bribery cannot stop the growing dissent and instability and his threats can only cause more extensive and powerful discontent.

His use of force can only create a false appearance of peace. It will lead to even more powerful resistance. Suharto is trying to find an escape from this vicious cycle. Suharto can be reelected as president, but this will only postpone his death sentence. Suharto is now at the end of his rope. He is only waiting to be discarded by history.

BRIEFS

NORTH SUMATRA EXPORTS--Foreign exchange revenue from North Sumatra exports in 1977 totalled \$623 million, compared to \$465 in 1976. Rubber, palm oil, palm kernels, tobacco, coffee, fresh shrimp, vegetables and maize are among the province's main export commodities. [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 15 Mar 78 BK]

MALAYSIA

RITHAUDDEEN TO VISIT INDIA FROM BEGINNING 28 MARCH

BK211549Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, 21 Mar (AFP)--Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen will make a 5-day official visit to India from next Tuesday, it was stated here today.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the visit was at the invitation of India's External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with whom Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen will exchange views on bilateral relations and the international situation.

They would also discuss the role of the superpowers in insuring peace in this region, with particular reference to the proposed zone of peace for the Indian Ocean and a Malaysian plan for neutrality in Southeast Asia.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER REAFFIRMS CONCORDE BAN

BK211511Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, 21 Mar (AFP)--The government will not approve Britain's request for Concorde flights over Malaysian air space as long as it is not convinced that the supersonic aircraft will not cause air pollution, Communications Minister Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam said today. He told parliament that so far the government was still not certain if Concorde flights could adversely affect Malaysia's environment.

Answering a question, the minister said that negotiations were held on five occasions between the government and British officials following Malaysia's rejection of the request for Concorde flights over Malaysian air space.

The government had asked the British to provide information and details in connection with the effects on the environment and ecology. At the talks, the government had also put forward several questions regarding environmental pollution, he added.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam said that, in addition, environmental experts were collecting data on air pollution relating to Concorde flights in other countries. He said all information received from Britain was being studied. "However, up till now the Malaysian Government is still not satisfied," he said. The minister said negotiations would be continued if the British provided information asked for.

NEW STRAITS TIMES ASSAILS PRC NUCLEAR TEST

BK190842Y Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Mar 78 p 12 BK

[Editorial: "Test of China"]

[Text] The radioactive cloud that will roll over Japan, Canada and the United States during the next week will not cause any dramatic fallout. The human consequences of China's most recent nuclear blast will not be directly traceable. But statistical measurements will show a slight rise in the incidence of cancer and infant mortality in the populations exposed to it. If this were the only argument against continued atmospheric nuclear testing by China, it would be more than enough. But the explosion will pollute the political atmosphere as well. This is China's sixth nuclear test in the past 2 years and is clearly related to the current drive to modernise her military machine, including a greatly stepped up nuclear capacity. Recent tests have been designed to develop nuclear missiles and improve delivery systems with the aim of

achieving parity with the Soviet Union by the turn of the century. Although this drive is related to fears of the Soviet Union, it strengthens the position of those groups within India and South Korea who want their governments to develop their own nuclear deterrent, and so contributes to an already dangerous trend towards nuclear proliferation.

The latest blast was accompanied, as is customary, by protestations that the test is designed to break the nuclear monopoly of the superpowers and to bring about the ultimate abolition of nuclear weapons. While China's aspirations to become a superpower herself are understandable, such a status involves responsibilities towards the maintenance of world order. The United States and the Soviet Union have at least recognised these responsibilities in their efforts to enforce the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, in their agreement to abandon atmospheric testing, and in the SALT talks. In ignoring the human and political consequences of continued atmospheric testing, China has shown no responsibility whatever.

HUSSEIN, RAZALEIGH 'MANIPULATED' KELANTAN ELECTIONS

OW200900Y Voice of the Malayan Revolution [Clandestine] in Mandarin to Malaysia and Singapore 1300 GMT 18 Mar 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary: "The Hussein Clique Has Assumed a New Burden"]

[Excerpts] Hussein and Razaleigh manipulated their political powers in Kelantan State so that the United Malays National Organization [UMNO] and its lackeys won more seats in the 11 March election farce. These results were not unexpected because the reactionaries always stage fraudulent elections. Their victories are always won with guns, threats, deceit and bribery. A study of their past allows us to understand them today-- understanding them today allows us to know their future.

From October to December 1977, Hussein, Razaleigh and their ilk stirred up unrest, creating the Kelantan crisis. Using this crisis as a pretext, they deployed a few thousand troops and police to this state to enforce martial law. Their tendency to use guns to destroy their opponents' power and gain spheres of influence was shown in their scheme to seize Kelantan as quickly as possible.

During the election, Hussein, Razaleigh and their followers intensified their threats to use arms, created an atmosphere of terror and forbade mass rallies. Despite this, UMNO chieftains openly convened mass rallies to inaugurate new mosques or government buildings, or under other pretexts, to unscrupulously incite chauvinistic sentiments.

Hussein, Razaleigh and their followers relied mainly on guns to obtain votes. But they thought that was not enough, so they resorted to deceit and bribery. They lauded the call for "one man, one vote" to the skies, but in reality, most of their votes were bought with money. Of course, deceit and bribery cost them money. But they were not worried since they could always plunder the people or beg from monopoly imperialist consortiums and big domestic capitalists. It was revealed that more than 10 million Malaysian dollars were donated to UMNO by big foreign and domestic capitalists during the 1974 general elections. In the state of Kelantan alone UMNO distributed 17 tons of handbills in an attempt to win votes through deceit. It should also be pointed out that the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party [PAS] was then an ally of UMNO.

It is also necessary to discuss UMNO's campaign declaration, because through this deceitful method UMNO tried to win votes. Filled with sweet words and cliches, the declaration was basically a copy of the declaration dished out by the Razak clique when it was contending with PAS in 1969 for spheres of influence. The earlier declaration differs from the later in two ways. First, it states that the National Front will create a "Golden era" in Kelantan State and exaggerates the amount of puppet central government financial aid to Kelanta, the scale of the land development program and other construction projects in that state. Second, it includes a plan for plundering Kelantan's natural resources as mapped out by a group of U.S. advisors who visited Malaysia in 1973 at Razak's invitation. This plan was implemented in 1974 and has deceived and misled the people. Everyone knows that the Razak clique, in order to plunder Kelantan's natural resources and obtain cheap labor in collusion with monopoly imperialist consortiums, invited two U.S. advisors to Kelantan to conduct investigations and studies for 8 months. These advisors mapped out a plan of plunder for Razak.

The Kelantan election farce is over. After doing everything possible to legalize the fascist activities, Hussein, Razaleigh and their followers achieved only a narrow success. This shows they are not powerful. Although they have won a superficial victory, in reality they carry a new and heavy burden on their backs. Their beautiful promises and plunder contradict each other. Their perverse actions will further sharpen the contradictions between them and the Kelantan people, thus creating a stronger resistance against them.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN--Kuala Lumpur, 21 Mar--The Japanese Government has agreed to provide Malaysia with a 200 million Malaysian dollar loan (\$80 million) under the fourth yen credit, Prime Minister Datuk Hussein bin Onn disclosed here today. He told parliament that the agreement was made in mid-January. Replying to a question, the prime minister said that the loan was for infrastructural projects under the Third Malaysia Plan (1976-80). "It was also agreed that the Malaysian Government should submit a list of infrastructural projects to the Japanese Government for its agreement," he added. One such project submitted for the Japanese Government's consideration is the Bintulu port project in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak. The project, estimated to cost about 315 million Malaysian dollars (\$126 million) is expected to be carried out this year. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK]

MARCOS DISCUSSES BASES WITH OUTGOING U.S. ENVOY NEWSOM

OW211904Y Manila Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Text] President Marcos today met outgoing U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines David Newsom for an exchange of views on matters pertaining to the American military bases in the Philippines. The president is expected to firm up the country's position on these bases with the nomination of Ambassador Newsom as the U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs. Our Malacanang reporter Bert Asuke gives us the details of that story:

[Begin recording] President Marcos received assurances from Ambassador David Newsom that he would convey to Washington the views of the Philippine Government on the American bases here. The outgoing U.S. envoy made the assurances during conversations in the State Dining Room of Malacanang. He stated that he would report to the American Congress the proposals of the Philippines relating to U.S. facilities for prompt consideration prior to further discussions.

The Philippines and the United States have previously agreed on several issues in the negotiations, namely the appointment of a Filipino commander in each of the five U.S. bases and the flying of the Philippine flag over these military installations. These points were agreed upon between the Philippine and U.S. panels in three previous meetings last 9 January, 13 February and 16 March this year. However, the matter of the payment of rentals or compensation has yet to be resolved by the two panels.

Earlier, President Marcos stated that he wants the immediate implementation of the sovereignty aspect of the military bases agreement. Appearing in the television program "Meet the Press," the president said this aspect could be implemented immediately without going to the other ticklish issues of the bases agreement like compensation and jurisdiction. However, Ambassador Newsom, reacting to the president's statement, said he will have to consult first with higher U.S. authorities on this matter.

Ambassador Newsom will leave soon for the United States following his nomination by President Carter as under secretary of state for political affairs, the number three position in the State Department. Further discussions on the bases agreement will be held soon, possibly next month during the official visit to the Philippines of U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale.

At the discussions in Malacanang both sides expressed hopes toward an agreement on new arrangements, including the establishment of Filipino base commanders. [end recording]

BRITISH MINISTER ON MARCOS VIEW OF SPRATLYS, SABAH

'Negotiated Solution' on Spratlys

OW220338Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0329 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Manila, 22 Mar (AFP)--A ranking British minister said today President Ferdinand Marcos told him he saw "no difficulty" about a negotiated solution in due time to the Spratlys dispute involving the Philippines and neighbors China and Vietnam.

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Britain's minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, was speaking in an airport interview before departing for Kuala Lumpur via Singapore after a 3-day official visit in Manila. Lord Goronwy-Roberts, who held talks with Mr Marcos Monday, said he was "very glad" to hear the president say that "he saw no difficulty about a negotiated satisfactory solution in due course of this issue (Spratlys)."

The minister said he told Mr Marcos Britain had no wish to intrude on the issue but that Britain also made known that "we are very anxious that there should be an amicable arrangement between you and your neighbors on this point." He added it seemed to him that Mr Marcos "is fairly confident of achieving it."

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, who was replying to a question, said it was Mr Marcos himself who raised the Spratlys issue in connection with the improving relations between the Philippines and People's China, whose Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien visited Manila last week. Mr Marcos, however, did not make "a big point of it," the minister added. Lord Goronwy-Roberts added that "needless to say" his government "will be delighted" at a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

Constitutional Renunciation of Sabah Claim

OW220635Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Manila, 22 Mar (AFP)--President Ferdinand Marcos has indicated the Philippines will make constitutional changes "at the appropriate time" to formally renounce its territorial claim over Sabah, east Malaysia, a visiting British minister said today.

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, said Mr Marcos indicated this to him during their wide-ranging talks last Monday, and the minister added he saw "no difficulty" that this would be done.

Lord Goronwy-Roberts spoke to airport newsmen before leaving for Singapore, after a 3-day visit here, enroute to Kuala Lumpur where, he said, he would inform Malaysian leaders about his conversation with Mr Marcos.

Lord Goronwy-Roberts said Mr Marcos gave him to understand that at the appropriate time "certain constitutional adjustments will be taken to reaffirm formally" the declaration he made at the ASEAN meeting. "I see no difficulty about this and I am sure your neighbors understand this and are very pleased," the minister said, adding the presidential action was "statesmanlike."

Lord Goronwy-Roberts stressed the Sabah issue was an internal regional matter between the Philippines and its neighbors and the British "have no standing in it" except as friends "who hope for a settlement of disputes among our other friends in a constructive and amicable way." He said he would be very glad to inject his Sabah talks here into his own conversations with Malaysian officials. But he anticipated the Malaysians themselves were well aware of the Philippine position and that Mr Marcos and Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn "are completely at one on how this should develop," the minister said. "I think what he (Mr Marcos) has said fits in very much with what your friends in Malaysia would also think," Lord Goronwy-Roberts added.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH HOLLAND--The Philippines and the Netherlands have agreed to conduct closer trade cooperation and intensify trade promotion efforts. The agreement was reached by the Philippines Department of Trade and the Netherlands Council for Trade Promotion. The two organizations decided to exchange representatives to monitor trade promotion activities between the Philippines and the Netherlands. They also agreed on the need to exchange trade missions and to hold product exhibitions in each other's country. [Malolos International Service in English 0710 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW]

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